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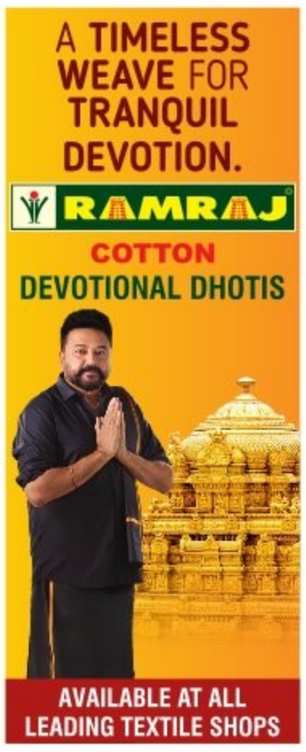
CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Bengaluru sisters are world's youngest certified scuba divers

A day after turning 10, Bengaluru-based **Ovee Malve** *(centre)* set a world record of becoming the youngest certified scuba diver. With this, both Ovee and her sister Ruchi, daughters of Bangalore Mountaineering Club founder Neeraj Malve, have become the youngest certified scuba diver siblings in the world. Neeraj himself has been a scuba diver for 16 years now. **P2**



Tunnel roads

... will work as a disincentive for people to use public transport, say experts. Such facilities will attract the public to bring out their personal vehicles *(The concluding part of the 3-part series)* | **P2**

WITH THIS ISSUE

THE INFLUENCE OF DE-INFLUENCERS

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Palestinians fleeing from northern Gaza to the south with their belongings after the Israeli evacuation order | AP

Clock ticks for ground offensive, exodus on

● 1 MN DISPLACED IN GAZA, SAYS U.N. ● BRUTALITY OF ATTACK MADE QAEDA LOOK PURE: BIDEN ● KHAMEINI BACKS HAMAS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE exodus of Palestinians from north Gaza continued for the second consecutive day on Saturday with thousands of people scrambling to evacuate the region ahead of the start of Israel's ground offensive, a week after Hamas militants invaded Israel and killed over 1,300 people. The evacuation order covered more than 11 lakh people. It is not clear how many have moved south. "What we know is that hundreds of thousands of people have fled. And that 1 million people have been displaced in total in one week," a UN official said.

Evacuating under such a tight deadline is proving to be a challenge for many. "We need a number for drivers from (north) Gaza to the south, it is necessary #help," read a social media plea for help. The UN warned that many, especially pregnant women, the elderly, and sick people may not be able to evacuate before the start of the Israeli ground offensive.

Palestinians wounded in Israeli air strikes on Gaza arrive at a hospital | AP

Tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers along with tanks and other military hardware are already on the Gaza border.

Two senior Hamas commanders, who were involved in Saturday's attacks on Israel, were killed in overnight Israeli drone attacks on Gaza, *The Times of Israel* reported. Israeli strikes on Gaza have killed at least 2,215 people so far, including 724 children, the Gaza health ministry said.

In a statement that was read as the US green light for Israel's ground offensive, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "As Israel pursues its legitimate right, to defend its people and to try to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians."

President Joe Biden said Hamas' brutality on Israelis makes Al Qaeda "look pure". "Like I said from the beginning, the US, makes no mistake about it, stands with Israel," he said. The supreme leader of Iran said Palestinians will emerge victorious. Ayatollah Ali Khameini called the Hamas attack on Israel "a symbol of the power of Islam". **P9, P12**

Dues will be cleared soon, Siddu tells contractors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah assured a delegation of Karnataka State Contractors' Association on Saturday that a part of their dues would be released in three to four days, ahead of the 'Ayudha Pooja' that falls on October 23, said Association president D Kempanna.

Kempanna and Association office-bearers on Friday had set a 30-day deadline to the government to release 50 per cent of their dues that run to Rs 20,000 crore. They had threatened to launch a statewide agitation if the government failed to do so.

With the chief minister meeting the contractors and taking them into confidence, the conflict between the contractors and the government is likely to ebb. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru development minister, had ensured that dues of Rs 652 crore are released to contractors.

"The CM promised us that the maximum possible amount that is due to us would be released in three to four days and the rest in a phased manner in a year as the state's financial situation is bad," Kempanna said after the meeting. **P5**

PAK-ING A PUNCH

India captain Rohit Sharma's 63-ball 86 and Shreyas Iyer's unbeaten 53 helped India win its ICC Cricket World Cup match against Pakistan by 7 wickets | AP **P11**

Straight from Modi, India serious about hosting '36 Oly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THERE were multiple indications earlier about India's inclination to enter the race to host the Olympic Games in 2036. But it was officially pitched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Opening Ceremony of the 141st IOC Session at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on Saturday.

The PM said that India will bid for the 2036 Olympic Games and would leave no stone unturned to host a successful Games. He said because of the rapidly rising economy and well developed infrastructure, the country is now ready to host big global events.

"The world has seen this during the G20 summit," he said. "We have organised events over 60 cities and towns. From logistics to everything else, this was the reflection on India's organisational capacity." He also cited examples of hosting international events like the Chess Olympiad, U-17 women's World Cup, women's boxing world championships, shooting World Cup successfully.

"This is the dream of 140 crore Indians. We would want to fulfill this dream with the support of you (IOC)," he said.

And not just the Olympics in 2036, he said India will be hosting the 2029 Youth Olympics.

"Sports is not just a way to win medals but also hearts," the PM added.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Department of Information and Public Relations
Symbol of a Glorious Tradition and Culture
Nada Habba
Mysuru Dasara
MYSURU DASARA
Celebration Since 1610 AD
Inauguration Programme
Date: 15.10.2023 Time: 10.15 AM to 10.36 AM
Venue: Chamundi Hills
Inauguration by
Nadabrahma Sri Hamsalekha
Renowned Cinema lyricist
and Music Director
413th Mysore Dasara Festival this year
Various religious – cultural activities like
Nandidwaja Puja, Ayudha Puja, Banni Tree Puja
The Palace City decorated with electric lights
Exhilarating Wrestling – Fights
Entertaing Youth Dasara, Farmer Dasara, Women Dasara
Enthralling and Colourful Jamboo Savari
Come, let us together celebrate our
Nada Habba Dasara with gaiety and pomp.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture; is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.
karnataka information

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 15/10/2023 • **Year:** Shobhakruta • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana • **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Bhadrapada • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Prathami 11.09 pm • **Nakshatra:** Chittha 6.05 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST Passing showers. Cloudy

Sunrise 6.09 am | Sunset 6.01 pm | Moonrise 6.27 am | Moonset 6.27 pm

FROM CABIN TO CATTLESHED

Engineering and MBA grads leave their pvt company jobs, find fulfilling careers as dairy farmers in Vijayapura

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

As day breaks, MS Sangamesh and Rizwan Jahagirdar step out for their day's work of milking cows and buffaloes, collecting the milk and readying it to supply to customers.

While Rizwan is a B.Tech engineer, Sangamesh has completed MBA, but both graduates have decided to venture into a field that has no connection with their educational qualifications.

"Indeed, it was challenging to be involved in dairy farming after doing B.Tech, however, since I was passionate about it, venturing into this field became easy," said Rizwan.

Sangamesh, who holds a similar view, has been involved in dairy farming for over two years in Vijayapura city, after quitting his job in a private company located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Rizwan has worked in different companies in Bengaluru and Delhi after completing B.Tech. But when the company asked him to shift to Iceland, Rizwan, who was unwilling to travel abroad, quit the job and came to Vijayapura.

"After quitting, I wanted to do something in my home district. My father encouraged me to start farming as we have land in Honaganahalli village, which is close to Vijayapura city," he said.

Rizwan said he first started with goat farming, but faced problems running it because of the unavailability of labour to take care of the animals. "Later, I decided to venture into dairy farming as I was told it is better than goat farming," he said.

MS Sangamesh of Vijayapura, who has completed his MBA and started dairy farming with the help of his family | EXPRESS

Rizwan now has around 50 cows and buffaloes in a shed in his village. He supplies over 100 litres of milk to his customers. He has some six workers who are involved in collecting and supplying milk.

Besides this, Rizwan also supplies dung to farmers as it is organic manure which is good for crops such as grapes.

Milk, an evergreen product

Sangamesh, on the other hand, lives in Vijayapura city where he started dairy farming about two years ago. After his MBA, he worked for a solar power company, then moved to Indore for a job in another company.

He, however, had to return to Vijayapura due to the lockdown during the Covid pandemic. "I had no interest in returning to Indore for the job. Therefore, I decided to become self-employed. After exploring many possibilities, I finally decided to venture into dairy farming because milk is a commodity which will never lose its importance," he said.

Sangamesh now has around 16 cattle, and gets around 50 litres of milk every day to supply to his regular customers.

Unlike Rizwan, Sangamesh has not employed any labour as the entire family is involved in the work. While Rizwan supplies milk to customers with the help of workers, Sangamesh's customers come to his house every day to collect the milk.

However, both the graduates have a common view about dairy farming. "When educated people get into farming, they bring a significant difference in the work as they have knowledge and zeal. They can introduce new ideas to improve the dairy sector. The dairy not only ensures a sustainable future, but indirectly gives employment to others. I vehemently believe that educated youngsters should be involved in this occupation. The youth should not treat it as lowly work," they said.

Rizwan also has suggestions for the government to improve the dairy sector and help farmers. He said that if at least two persons are encouraged to open a dairy in each village, it will give them a regular source of income, and at the same time, farmers can sell their fodder locally.

"We have seen, mainly during drought, that crops failed. Farmers got only fodder. If we have more dairy farms locally, then farmers can at least sell the fodder, which covers some losses," he said.

> *Indeed, it was challenging to be involved in dairy farming after doing B.Tech, however, since I was passionate about it, venturing into this field became easy. I wanted to do something in my home district.* – Rizwan Jahagirdar

Volunteers from Bengaluru college conduct art, sports workshop in govt school, help students discover their talent

FUN FRIDAYS AT SCHOOL

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

LIFE is learning! Experience is education! For the students of a small government school in Bengaluru, the opportunity to involve with an interactive initiative that opened their young, inquisitive minds to their own limitless potential, is indeed a gift.

The Government Kannada English Model Primary School (GKMP) is located within the bustling streets of Chamarajpet. Once a week, a group of volunteers visits this institution to help children dream big and leave an indelible mark on their young hearts.

The volunteers are students pursuing Masters in Counselling Psychology at Christ College, who have been visiting the school over the past month. They interact with the pupils through a form of education called 'experiential learning'. The purpose is to get the young ones to experience a gamut of creative and physical activities so that they can identify their true talent and calling.

Ten volunteers dedicate one-and-half hours every Friday towards holding cultural activity workshops and sports sessions, at GKMP. Around 150 students from Classes 1-8 participate, experiencing the wonders of public speaking, dance, singing, art, sports and English remedial classes, among others.

"When we initially spoke to the headmistress and asked her what we could do for the students, she suggested if we could teach them art and dance," says Rey D, part of the volunteer group. "Our group wanted to engage the students in creative learning and art through different forms and help them loosen up a bit and enjoy school," Rey adds.

The volunteers then analysed their own strengths and arrived at a consensus to work around six subjects, accordingly chalking out a two-month plan for the students.

Imparting different skills, team spirit, emotion through art, and confidence, the group says this is more than just a 30 hours of community service project. A volunteer explains: "One of the reasons we choose to work with a government school is to understand how important the right kind of education is and how children can learn through different methods. In this way, we can impact their lives in a much larger way."

Ten volunteers from Christ College dedicate one-and-a-half hours every Friday to hold activities, workshops and sports events for these children | EXPRESS

Dedicated group

The government school lacks adequate sports facilities, but the volunteers are a dedicated bunch, helping with the requirements. The art supplies and any other costs for the activities have been borne by the Teach for India Foundation.

The module is popular among students too. Arya Mishra, a Class-4 teacher, says her students look forward to the sessions, adding, "Attendance has increased considerably. and children wait for these classes." Elated, she further says that her students are excited when they master a dance move, sing their favourite song, score a goal, or create art that reflects their emotions. It is also a reflection of each one's special gift.

Meanwhile, low staff strength remains a challenge in most government schools. But GKMP wants to expand this workshop and have more volunteers come over and inspire students to learn from more than their textbooks.

"Our students also have inherent talents, which require the right exposure and opportunities. Such activities introduce them to a platform they never knew existed," School Headmistress Kaveramma P says. Explaining the activities, she says the children have the freedom to choose between different interests every week, be it art or sports -- such as volleyball, throwball, and football.

Sia Khandelwal, a volunteer for English remedial classes, says, "Students in Classes 7 and 8 were more responsive than the rest. We tried to make the subject fun and interactive through games and wordplay." She adds that the classes got a good response.

Teachers say that students have gotten attached to the volunteers in a small time.

Bengaluru-based siblings become world's youngest certified scuba divers

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

A day after turning 10, Bengaluru-based Ovee Malve set a world record of becoming the youngest certified scuba diver.

With this, both Ovee and her sister Ruchi, daughters of Bangalore Mountaineering Club founder Neeraj Malve, have become the youngest certified scuba diver siblings in the world. Neeraj himself has been a scuba diver for 16 years now. Ovee achieved the feat in Puducherry at 7.18 am on October 11, becoming the youngest Professional Association of Diving Instructors-certified open water diver.

Elated and proud, Neeraj said he understands that adventure sports are not easy, especially at a young age. He never pressured his children and ensured that they underwent proper training. The daughters were water babies since they were little and were fascinated with his scuba diving videos. Their interest in scuba diving stemmed from those videos and they started swimming and later training for scuba diving, he said.

Ovee enrolled for a junior open water diver course at Temple Adventures, Puducherry and trained under coach Shreya Mehta. Her sister Ruchi (14) trained under Shaurya Tarni of Dive Goa in Goa. Ruchi enrolled for the Junior Open Water Diver certification course on October 27, 2022 and received the Scuba Schools International certificate on October 30, 2022. At the age of 10 and 13, both Malve sisters have become the world's youngest scuba diver sisters.

Ruchi Malve | EXPRESS

Previously, a Mumbai-based boy, Dwit Nandu, at age 10 set the world record around 8 am on August 25, 2023.

Both the sisters underwent two-day rigorous training which included a 200-metre nonstop swimming and floating for 10 minutes without any support. They studied five chapters of theory about performing underwater skills in confined waters, passed a written exam and successfully performed four dives in open water up to 18-metre depth to earn their open water diver certification. They are authorised to perform scuba diving anywhere in the world now.

Ruchi aspires to work on marine conservation, highlighting how underwater debris is harmful and is spoiling marine life. Ovee wishes to join her father's venture to become an instructor and dive across the world.

EXPRESS READ

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham convocation held

Bengaluru: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham held its convocation and 656 students were conferred degrees with the 541 Bachelor of Technology graduates, on Saturday in the city. Twenty-two students received gold medals for academic excellence. Chief Guest S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, said, "Failure is inevitable, but the grand tapestry of your vision must prevail. In the years to come, many of the students will ascend to enviable positions. Some will lead teams, others will own industries, and a few may pioneer scientific frontiers," he said. Around 96 percent graduated students were placed this year.

TUNNEL ROADS

SAFETY PRIME CONCERN; WILL COUNTER UPPING PUBLIC TRANSPORT USE

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

A proposed project of 195-Km-long tunnel network under Bengaluru. No public consultations. Previous bad experiences with subways in the city during rains. Poor maintenance record for existing subways by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, which will be supervising the planned project. All this, and more, point to chaos and disaster in waiting if the state government goes ahead with this mega project. Worse, it would only add to more vehicles on the city roads instead of reducing them by encouraging Bengalureans to take public transport.

SUBTERRANEAN PLAN PART 3

An urban expert working with the government told TNSE while requesting anonymity: "It is a bad idea. When the BBMP is unable to manage small underpasses, ensure they are garbage-free and the drains are clear, do you think they will be able to manage a 195-Km-long road tunnel network?"

He said the state took 2-3 years to construct a one-kilometre-long Shivananda flyover; the Peripheral Ring Road, the Ejipura Flyover are still not done; the cycle-lane chain across the city is not even completed in the central business district, let alone across Bengaluru. Besides, the civic authorities are unable to clear encroachments on lake and drain lines to ensure no flooding. "And we are talking about a 195-km-long underground tunnel road network!" exclaimed the expert.

A distinguished mobility expert, who refused to be identified, said the unwanted result of this project, even if it sees the light of day, is that it would lure motorists to use their private vehicles rather than take to public transport, like buses and metro rail.

"There has been no public consultation or even a debate on this project. Is there even a requirement for this project? It has not been studied. For execution of any project, a thorough public consultation is required. The government is toeing the same line as it did for the steel flyover and the north-south and east-west corridor," said the mobility expert.

Interestingly, the cost implications are also not looked at. According to BBMP officials, construction of 1km flyover costs Rs 125 crore and digging of one 1km tunnel of 14.5 metre width would cost Rs 450 crore. "The cost for 195-km-long tunnel road can only be imagined," said a senior BBMP official.

(Series concludes)

Advancement in medical tech reduces morbidity rate: Docs

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

HOSPITALS in Bengaluru have noted that with the advancement in technology in the healthcare, there has been a decline in patient morbidity rate. With the help of new minimally invasive procedures the recovery time, for painful procedures has decreased and fear of surgery among patients has also reduced.

Around 50 per cent medical procedures previously needed an open surgery, but with robotic surgeries and laparoscopic procedures complex surgeries can be performed with minimal invasion. Complex procedures like pancreatic or liver tumours that required bigger cut, increasing the risk of infection, can now be performed with more precision.

With 144 robotic surgeries performed since 2016, Dr Manjiri Somashekhar, Lead and Senior Consultant, Paediatric Surgery, Aster CMI Hospital, explained that though robotic surgeries are Rs 1-1.5 lakh more expensive than the regular procedure, people are willing to pay more for better results.

Even though robotic surgery was introduced in the early 2000s, it took time to gain popularity, Dr Deepak Dubey, HOD and Consultant, Urology, Robotic Surgery And Renal Transplantation, Manipal Hospitals Old Airport Road, explained.

Earlier 80 percent of the procedures were conventional. Between 2010 to 2020, 50 percent procedures were done using robotic technology. The number has now increased to 70-80 percent now, he said.

Dr Mohan Keshavmurthy, Senior Director of Urology, Uro-Oncology, Uro-Gynaecology, Andrology, Transplant and Robotic Surgery, Fortis Hospitals said they have seen a sevenfold decrease in the morbidity rate among patients. The hospital has two robots, Davinci, performing 45-50 robotic surgeries (general, oncology, cardiology and urology) and Mako, performing 45-50 orthopaedic surgeries monthly.

Dr Rohit R Ranade, Consultant Gynaecologist and Robotic Surgeon, Narayana Health City, said that they introduced robotic technology in 2016 and have witnessed a 15-20 per cent growth in complex surgeries performed. Close to 2,000 robotic surgeries have been performed at the hospital.

Doctors foresee an increase in the number of robotic surgeries over the next few years, and predict that this will reduce the cost of each procedure too, making it all the more preferable.

The two-day Makkala Dasara-2023, a platform for children to showcase their talents, will be inaugurated at Jaganmohan Palace on Wednesday. Child artist Diya Hegde, singer Pragathi Badiger, visually-challenged dancer G M Gangadhar and national-level Kho-Kho player Manasa will inaugurate the children's festival along with Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa

'GOVT HAS BECOME A WHITE ELEPHANT; MUST BECOME LEAN'

GANDHIAN and well-known theatre director Prasanna says theatre is going through the worst crisis in its history ever. Common people think theatre is TV serials, cinema, or digital platforms and the problem of virtual images being perceived as real people is also the problem in politics, he told *TNSE* editors and reporters during an interaction. Excerpts:

What changes have you seen in the last few years in theatre, especially the freedom of speech and expression?
Theatre is going through the worst crisis in its history ever. But this is one part. The other side of the story, never ever in the history of humanity, so many young people were drawn towards theatre. Today, if you go to Andheri West in Mumbai, thousands of youngsters who have given up their software jobs or other jobs or Dalits or even women from smaller cities are desperately trying to become actors. This tendency to become actors as militant as it used to be with Naxalism or with youths during the freedom struggle. You have these two extremes now. The reason is that unfortunately people think theatre is TV serials, cinema, or digital platforms. People do not think there is an enormous difference between a virtual image and a real person. This is what we are trying to tell the world. The problem of virtual images being perceived as real people is also a problem in politics.

But is the purpose and message of cinema and theatre the same?
Yes it is, but there is no sense. It finally boils into the sense of it. In real theatre, you get a sense of it, there is actuality in it, where the actor is facing the audience. Certain communication is happening. It's a two-way communication. Between PM Narendra Modi and the people, there is one-way communication, between Amitabh Bachchan and the audience, it's a one-way communication. One-way communication is a disaster. Sense is the most important aspect of communication. We have removed the sense and brought everything to this so-called nonsense communication.

Spaces for arts and theatre are coming down. Should the system be blamed?
The lack of space is so much that human beings are thrown out. With virtual intelligence, all of us will be thrown out. They don't need human or human feelings. This is the real crisis. We are all fantasising about great development and progress, but the great machine has said one thing - "I don't need you. If you want to be subservient to me, then I will give you a few lakhs of rupees. I have to produce profits."

How is politics influencing theatre?
Politics is getting influenced by its monster economy. Modi might be talking about Hindutva or civilisation, but finally, he is working for economic growth. How can one talk about economic growth, keeping societal growth or cultural growth in isolation? This is why the Indian People's Theatre Association jaatha that is happening and that has gone to Rajasthan and Bihar will come to Karnataka in December. It's a padayatra. Actors, singers and theatre persons are taking part.

What is the status of khadi and the spinners today?
If you let it go like this, it will be dead. But with that, even we will be dead. Khadi is going to be dead, spinning is dead. What our CM or PM is telling is a lie. Where is spinning happening? Have you visited spinning centres? For population increase and climate mitigation, we should have increased it by 100 times. Instead of that, we have destroyed them. Bihar MP Anil Hegde, who is from Karnataka, has been asking how much the government pays for spinners (most of them women), and they replied Rs 40 per day. Finally, they hiked it to Rs 50 per day. The MP fought for two years for an increase of Rs 10 per day! How can khadi survive? Which women will take it up?

Some people find khadi very expensive...
A tiny Picasso original painting costs crores, whereas a photocopy of Picasso costs Rs 5. Like that, khadi is pure. The powerloom clothes that poor people are made to wear is completely synthetic and dangerous as the chemical dye used is the second largest pollutant in the world. Let the government make it cheap, but not the way they are doing it now.

How is Charaka helping women?
Charaka (rural women's cooperative society) started when I got tired of Delhi theatre. I chose to go to Heggodu. I was also deeply worried about the environment, so I set up Charaka. In 30 years of my Charaka experience, I understood that women are the only stable force in the village. Charaka has to be made into a model that has to be placed before large business houses and politicians, including Modi and Siddaramaiah, saying that this is a viable model and a requirement of today's industry. We have also pushed for Mahatma Gandhi Vastroudhyama. For the first time, the state government has announced support for khadi and Vastroudhyama, which are inspired by Charaka.

How many people are employed in Charaka?
Charakha, at its peak, employed around 800 people (directly and indirectly). During Covid, it dropped. Now it is picking up. It has 12 shops. We are not increasing production, because we want to consolidate the model. We are trying to set up production of naturally dyed and natural handloom.

Your views on the relevance of Gandhian values now?
From Gandhian values, we have come to Savarkar values. Today, Savarkar values are ruling this country. Today, it has become a battle between Gandhi and Savarkar. Unfortunately, the battle is not fought properly. Because nobody is saying Savarkar is not a patriot. We all know that he was a patriot and his contribution to India's intellectual legacy is great. He wrote the book on 1857 and it is one of the best. But when you go beyond that, Gandhi is for Ahimsa and Savarkar for an ideology of violence. Gandhi was a Ram Bhakt, Savarkar an atheist. Gandhi believed in khadi, Savarkar opposed it. Savarkar's attachment and ideology for violence was so deep that he said because of Buddhism, Hindus lost the courage to fight. It's a clear division between Gandhian and Savarkar ideologies.

We like-minded people are having a jatha, telling people to come back to Gandhi. Congress lost it because they went away from Gandhi. BJP is now trying to push Savarkar to the front, we are saying don't do this.

What about power looms?
We have to go back to khadi as an economic model. Khadi is a metaphor. We are saying make 70-30 economy, where any product that uses 70% human resources is acceptable. Any product that uses up to 30% automation is acceptable. But not a product that uses 99% automation. I may say yes to using Artificial Intelligence (AI). By using AI for Charaka, women are saved from the problem of writing applications. Any technology that is not destroying nature is good. But automation of 100% is not acceptable.

Cases of communal violence are reported frequently. Why is it so? Are people becoming impatient?
First, let us be self-critical. All of us have become intolerant. We do not have time or patience. We are all responsible for communal violence or war or anything. The political parties may be a little more responsible than us. So it has to first start with me -- I have to slow down. Our quality of life needs to slow down and it will only help improve. We need to introspect ourselves. We need to spend time with our family. We have introduced mobile phones to children and they have got involved. This is criminal and worse than Hitler.

The Congress government has implemented guarantee schemes aimed at empowering women. As a person who has been associated with women's empowerment and rural development, how do you see this?
The intention of the schemes is good and it was much needed too. However, the problem is that they were announced and implemented hurriedly. Anything we do, to actually see that it reaches the people will take time. They announce such schemes just 15 days before the elections suddenly to find a new trick and the problem lies there. The schemes were necessary and people wanted that. More money is spent on this than it should be. Even if I were to be in the shoes of Siddaramaiah, I would have done that as I had to win elections, I had to defeat the opponents.

The guarantee schemes are a very beautiful idea. But, because we were desperate, we spent too much money on that. We don't have the money to pay salaries and those are huge salaries. If I were Siddaramaiah, I would say that all my government servants are going to take 25% less salary. It is a difficult decision, but compare the salary of our officers with that of a rich peasant. In North Karnataka, somebody who has 23 acres of land is still going to Goa for work. I think the government should be a little more careful. I am sorry, the government has become a white elephant. This white elephant should be made to fast. They should become lean.

How do you see the government's move to implement a caste census?
Politically it is the right thing, but if you want to implement it in the right spirit, there should be a commitment for 20 years. Otherwise, it will lead to another caste war. This country is controlled by upper-caste and upper-class minds who do not understand India. How do you repair this problem? Can you do this by introducing a law? I doubt so. It needs constructive action in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi take an active part.

Where does theatre art stand now in terms of highlighting social issues?
I don't look at theatre as a 'performance'. As a performer, actor Amitab Bachaan reaches a million times more audience than I do. Cinema has a larger outreach than theatre and it does not have a large audience similar to cinema.

What is your opinion on popularising theatre among children in schools?
I am trying to do that. I have set up the All-India Institute for Educational Theatre in Mysuru where I will be spending the rest of my life on educational theatre and children. When people like Girish Karnad, Chandrashekar Kambar, Vijay Tendulkar, Badal Sarkar and Habib Tanveer write something, it is immediately picked up by the cinema. Today's cinema is 1970s theatre. The best of 70s theatre have all been incorporated into today's cinema. Theatre personalities are like sugarcane, once all the juice is squeezed the pulp is discarded.

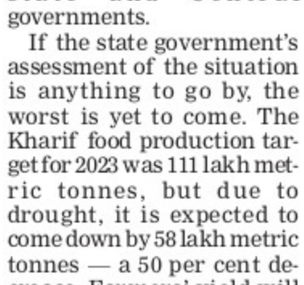
Why didn't you migrate to cinema?
In my batch was Raj Babbar and in my previous batch were Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri. Many stars were my students. I registered for a PhD at IIT Kanpur. I realised that I could not become a scientist. I went to the National School of Drama and fell in love with theatre. Since then my love towards drama has been the same and I did not wish to go to the cinema.

Can technology be used to popularise 'theatre' and 'khadi'? Can OTT help theatre reach a larger audience?
To reach people we need technology. But it should not kill all that is natural and give the virtual. We are trying to bring theatre to OTT. Marathi and Bengali theatres have successfully used OTT. We will produce a play and the OTT purchases it. 'Theatre' has to happen as 'theatre' and people who are willing to get the experience of theatre should pay for it and then release the same on OTT. This will help improve the quality of the theatre like how it is in New York and London.

When the government changes, they rewrite the school textbooks, be it on Savarkar or others. How do you see this?
We cannot have an ideological perspective about education. It has to be a cultural perspective. Children need to be told stories like Ramayana, Mahabharat and Homer's Iliad because they have a lot of imagination. But you cannot feed them Ramayana because one is a Hindu. I would be happy if children also read the life of Jesus Christ. All my life I have done Ramayana. However, I will never be an RSS man and I do not accept the Ram Mandir business and the Rath Yatra.

EXPRESS Dialogues

URGENT CALL FOR GOVT ACTION IN FACE OF LOOMING FARM CRISIS



EARLIER this week, Rangaswamy, a farmer from Ajjanahalli in Challakere, dumped tomatoes he had grown on his two-acre land on the roadside. The hapless farmer's desperate action hardly caught the attention of the powers that be. Even if it did, most of them would have dismissed it as a 'routine' practice when prices plummet.

Rangaswamy may have been forced to resort to such a severe measure due to price fluctuations, and the absence of storage facilities and processing units that would have helped millions of farmers like him. Yes, those are serious concerns that need to be addressed urgently. But that's not all.

With 216 out of 236 taluks in the state declared drought-hit, the farm sector in the state is currently facing a serious crisis that requires urgent intervention by the state and Central governments.

If the state government's assessment of the situation is anything to go by, the worst is yet to come. The Kharif food production target for 2023 was 111 lakh metric tonnes, but due to drought, it is expected to come down by 58 lakh metric tonnes — a 50 per cent decrease. Farmers' yield will be reduced by over half and there is also a possibility of a shortage of food grains in the market.

The severe drought has damaged agricultural and horticultural crops in 41.52 lakh hectares and the loss is estimated to be over Rs 30,000 crore. This year the state is facing a "Green Drought." That means though some fields may look lush green, the yield will be reduced significantly due to deficit rains.

To ease the burden to some extent, banks have been asked to restructure farmers' loans. The Cabinet Subcommittee headed by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda seems to be doing a commendable job in getting the crop survey done to get a real assessment of the situation and present it before the Centre for seeking relief. As of now, the state has sought Rs 4,860 crore compensation under the National Disaster Relief Fund/ State Disaster Relief Fund norms. The Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited a few districts to assess the situation and give a report to the Centre, which then will release the funds.

The worsening power crisis has added to the woes. The government, which has doled out "up to 200 units" of free power to all households under the "Gruha Jyoti" guarantee scheme, has failed to provide a three-phase uninterrupted power supply to farmers, obstructing their efforts to protect crops by pumping water from borewells.

The Siddaramaiah government seems to be struggling to manage the power situation and is yet to start drought relief works. The blame game has already started. The ruling Congress is accusing the Centre of not giving time for the state ministers to meet Union Home and Agriculture Ministers to explain the situation and submit a memorandum seeking help. The opposition BJP is accusing the government of failing to rush to farmers' assistance and instead, wasting time by pointing fingers at the Centre.

The political blame game will only intensify further ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Be that as it may, they need to realise the urgent need to work as a team and rush to farmers' aid.

Noted economist and former director of the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Prof RS Deshpande, is of the view that there is an urgent need to put money in the farmers' hands now so they can start preparing for the Rabi cultivation. Any further delay could push farmers towards private money lenders.

Nearly 70 per cent of farmers in the state are small farmers and financial assistance from the government will help them significantly. But, it has to be done now. Instead of waiting for Central assistance, the State Government can give it immediately and recover it later.

Assisting with crop insurance, and providing crop loss compensation as per NDRF/SDRF norms; increasing the number of working days under the MGNREGA, and providing drinking water and fodder will have to be done without further delay. Our agricultural scientists should also focus more on drought-resistant crops, while the governments must ensure a market for farm produce.

While taking up the relief works, the authorities must focus on asset creation in villages, desilting of lakes, construction of recharge pits, building storage facilities, etc. Such measures can help farmers like Rangaswamy, who will be looking for storage and processing units for their produce. Alongside this, it will improve the overall agricultural ecosystem in villages.

ELECTION GAMEPLAN

Cong plans new working presidents ahead of polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress high command is planning to appoint new working presidents for the Karnataka unit by replacing incumbents, especially those who are in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's cabinet, according to political watchers.

It is also likely to strike a balance in the caste equation to woo votes as names of leaders from all major communities have been proposed by the KPCC, sources said.

Ministers — Ramalinga Reddy and Eshwar Khandre — would be replaced with Rajya Sabha member G C Chandrashekar, a Vokkaliga, and Vinay Kulkarni, a Veerashaiva Lingayat belonging to Panchamasali sect, they said.

Former Chitradurga MP B N Chandrappa, who hails from SC Left community, would be asked to step down as he is going to be fielded as candidate for LS polls in 2024. In his place, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge loyalist Vasantha Kumar, who is Raichur district Congress chief, would be appointed. The names of former MLA Anjali Nimbalkar under the women's quota and former minister Vinay Kumar Sorake, who hails from the backward Ediga community, have also been proposed. Sorake's name was proposed by Siddaramaiah as the latter wants to counter his rivals within the party, sources said.

Rain in Cauvery catchment fills up reservoirs, level up 58%

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

IT is mid-October and yet it feels like summer. While some parts of the state are reeling under the rising mercury levels, the catchment area of the Cauvery basin has experienced good rainfall from October 1 to 10, much to the relief of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as the reservoir level is gradually rising. The reservoir has filled up 58% in the last 10 days.

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) records showed that the present storage level in the Cauvery basin is 66.88 tmcft. This is much less than last year's 110.30 tmcft. Records also showed that on August 31, the reservoir level was 63% which dipped to 52% on September 25 and rose to 54% from October 2.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) records, from October 1 till date, the state as a whole recorded 51% deficit rainfall. It has received 29.8mm rainfall, against the normal of 61.2mm. However, Kodagu, the birthplace of Cauvery river, has recorded 86% excess rainfall during the same period. Kodagu has received 149.6mm rainfall, against the normal of 80.4mm. Mysuru has also recorded a 73% excess rainfall, followed by Hassan 52%.

IMD data showed that during the southwest monsoon (June-September), the state as a whole recorded a 25% deficit rainfall, while Kodagu a 42% shortfall.

Most parts of Karnataka, including Bengaluru, in October are recording above normal maximum temperatures and high humidity levels.

As per IMD, there has been a 2 degrees Celsius rise in the maximum temperatures in Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Honnavar, Karwar, Belagavi, Raichur and Vijayapura. There has been a 5 degrees Celsius rise in temperature in Madikeri, despite the district recording 86% excess rainfall.

IMD scientist A Prasad said that due to the El Nino factor, there has been a rise in daytime temperatures across the state, hovering around 30-35 degrees Celsius. Last year, during September and October, there was excess rainfall. This year, there has not just been a delay in the onset and deficit in southwest monsoon rainfall, the withdrawal too has been late.

"Normally, the southwest monsoon ends on September 30 and the onset of the north-east monsoon is from October 1. But this year, there has been a delay. But this is being compensated with nighttime rainfall in some places like Bengaluru outskirts and in ghat areas. As per the heat index, there has been a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius in temperatures this season," he said.

FARMERS SEEK SPECIAL SESSION OF KARNATAKA LEGISLATURE

BENGALURU: Farmers association leaders, who are protesting against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, met Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Friday and appealed to him to direct the state government to convene a special session of the state legislature to discuss the Cauvery issue. Farmers leader Kuruburu Shantakumar said they explained the injustice done to people of the state in the Cauvery issue to the governor. In a memorandum submitted to the governor, farmer leaders Kuruburu Shantakumar, Gurudev Narayan Kumar and others said due to rain deficit over 300 farmers have committed suicide. They appealed to the governor to direct the state government to urgently convene the session to discuss concerns over drinking water for Bengaluru and to pass a resolution that water will not be released to Tamil Nadu. They also urged the governor to seek details from the Centre about the information they are providing regarding crop patterns and other subjects and ensure that the government works transparently. **ENS**

A Sri Lankan flyer, who attempted to smuggle gold by concealing it in undergarments, an Indian passenger who hid the gold in rectum and a Singapore Airlines passenger who hid gold in shoes, were caught by customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport. The seized gold weighed 1.7kg in total, worth over Rs 1 crore

Rapido driver booked for sexually harassment

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 20-year-old degree student of a private university in CBD, was recently allegedly sexually harassed by a Rapido bike taxi driver. The incident is said to have taken place in the evening of September 30, when she had booked a Rapido bike to her cousin's place on Brigade Road.

"The accused identified as Ajas Ahmed has been booked for sexual harassment, and is yet to be arrested." said an officer part of investigation.

"The driver abruptly stopped the vehicle at one of the signals and my leg was hit by something, so I requested him to reduce the speed. He touched my foot in response. Initially, I thought that he must have touched it out of concern. Later, he came to a stop near Langford Road, touched my thighs, and asked for my name. I was too frightened to reply. He then took me on a longer route and left me at Residency Road, which was not my intended drop-off point, but I got down as I was scared. When I asked for his Rapido QR Code, he forced me to pay him via a different app so he could get my name. I had to walk till my brother's place on Brigade Road," the victim said.

"I informed my brother about the incident. Since I had the driver's number from the Google Pay transaction, my brother called him," the victim added.

The victim and her brother filed a complaint with the Cubbon Park police and contacted Rapido bike services as well. The driver has been reportedly suspended. The Cubbon Park police have transferred the case to Ashoknagar police.

The victim, a native of Patna, Bihar is residing at a PG in Shantinagar since Feb 2022.

MYS-B'LURU HIGHWAY ACCIDENT

3 killed as car rams into lorry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THREE persons, including a couple, were killed on the spot while four others, including three children, sustained injuries in an accident on the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway in Ramanagara district at 8am on Saturday.

All the seven, suspected to be of the same family, hailed from Peenya and were travelling in an Omni van towards Mysuru. The driver, while trying to overtake a 16-wheel container, lost control and rammed into it from behind. Vehicular movement was affected for a while till the police cleared the vehicles and shifted the bodies from the accident spot.

The deceased are Rajanna, 45, his wife Uma, 42, and their relative Lakamma, 65. The family hailed from Peenya II Stage and Rajanna was an autorickshaw driver. The family was on its way to Srirangapatna. Owing to the impact, the car has been damaged beyond repair.

"The exact cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. The injured, who were provided first aid at a hospital in Ramanagara, were later shifted to another hospital in Bengaluru. The condition of all the four injured is out of danger. Of the three dead, the couple was killed on the spot while the other woman succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital," said the police.

The police have seized the container lorry and have taken the driver into custody. The Ramanagara traffic police have registered a case.

A car caught fire in a serial accident on Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway on Saturday

TRUCK RAMS INTO CARS ON HIGHWAY

Mysuru: Several people were injured after a speeding truck crashed into cars on Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway at Srirangapatna taluk on Saturday. Due to the crash, a car caught fire while Toyota Innova car in which Mandya SP was travelling suffered minor damage. Police said the accident took place at Gowripura in the morning. The driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle and dashed into the cars. While around four cars were severely damaged, one car caught fire. The villagers and the police rescued the occupants of the damaged cars by breaking open the window panes. **ENS**

13 vehicles gutted in two fire incidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THIRTEEN two-wheelers were gutted in two separate fire incidents in the city on Saturday. The cause of both the incidents is suspected to be short-circuit. No casualties have been reported in both incidents.

In Cholurpalya, items worth over Rs 20 lakh were gutted at an incense stick factory on Saturday. The factory, Sri Chamundi Industries, is located on 7th Cross, Pipeline Road, in Vijayanagar and is owned by Balachandra. The factory was rented to Vijay Ray and Kanti Lal. A total of eight vehicles were gutted in the ablaze as one of the two-wheelers parked outside the factory ignited the fire that extended to other bikes. Three fire tenders brought the fire under control.

Fire breaks out at an incense stick manufacturing unit at Cholurpalya on Saturday

Kanti Lal, who handles the printing section for incense stick covers at the factory, said the fire broke out around 9.15 am and continued for two hours. Panicked by the smoke coming out of the factory, the neighbours immediately informed the fire department and the owner. A complaint is registered with the KP Agrahara police station. Further investigation is on,

In another incident, a fire broke out near a scrap shop in the Nandini Layout police limits on the same day.

A transformer located in Chamundi Nagar burst due to short-circuit, gutting five two-wheelers parked next to the shop.

As the owner had reportedly stored tyres and other materials, the fire spread to the neighbouring buildings, including an old age home. The residents reportedly ran out of their houses, while the inmates of old age home had to be shifted to another place.

Firemen struggled for nearly four hours to bring the fire under control.

772 DLs SUSPENDED FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS IN CITY

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

TO send out a strong message to traffic violators, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have got suspended the licence of 772 persons from January till September this year. Apart from this, the transport department has also got the registration certificates (RCs) of eight vehicles cancelled for illegal accessories like modified silencers.

Speaking to The New Sunday Express, Joint Commissioner Police (Traffic), Bengaluru City, MN Anucheth said they had recommended to the traffic department to suspend 1,700 licences for various violations. "Of this, the majority were for drunk driving and 172 for performing wheelies and dangerous driving. This apart, the traffic department got eight RCs cancelled for modification of vehicles and installation of noisy silencers which is a nuisance to others," he elaborated.

Anucheth said that in 50% of the cases, minors were involved in performing wheelies and dangerous driving and each vehicle owner has been slapped with a fine of up to Rs 25,000.

"Depending upon the nature of the offence, the suspension for DL will be for a period ranging from 3 months to 6 months. The majority of the licences recommended for suspension by traffic police were involved in dangerous driving and they were repeat offenders. In case the owners are found driving or riding the vehicle during the suspension period, the penalty will be doubled," Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement) C Mallikarjuna said.

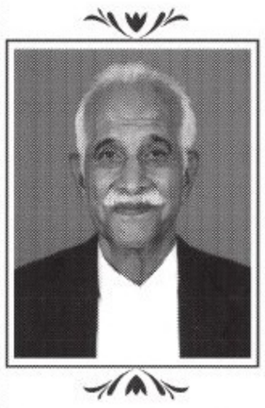
Transport Minister R Ramalinga Reddy said that he has given a free hand to officials to take action against unruly motorists.

"We have zero tolerance towards drunk driving and wheelie cases as these kinds of violation also harm other commuters and pedestrians," Reddy added.

Lokayukta cops arrest excise DC, three others

Bengaluru: The Lokayukta police arrested four officials of the Excise Department in Davanagere, including Deputy Commissioner of Excise R S Swapna, on Saturday. The other three accused are Ashoka HM, first division assistant; Sheela, excise inspector of Harihara zone, and Shailashree, second division assistant. According to a statement, the accused sought bribe from complainant DG Raghunatha for granting CL-7 liquor licence for his amusement park in Harihara. First, the Lokayukta police arrested Ashoka while accepting Rs 3 lakh bribe from the complainant in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise. Later, they arrested Swapna, Sheela and Shailashree. **ENS**

FOND REMEMBRANCE



S. SIDDAPPA
ADVOCATE
DOB: 11-11-1935
DOD: 15-10-2010
INSERTED BY FAMILY

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSIONER, BASAVA BHAVANA HIGH GROUNDS, BANGALORE-560001
Under Consumer Petitioner Act 1986
Consumer Case No. 34/2023
THE FORTUNE ICON APARTMENTS ...Petitioner/Complainant/Appellant
Versus
Fortuna Constructions India Private Limited, ...Party/Respondent(s)
To,
Opposite Party / Respondent Name :
1. Fortuna Constructions India Private Limited., Fortuna House, No. 184, 3rd Floor, Oppt. NCERT, Outer Ring Rd, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.
2. M/s. Fortuna Projects, No. 212, 4th Floor, Bellary Road, Sadhashivanagar, above Hero Honda Showroom, Bangalore-560 080. reptd. by its Managing Partner
3. Mr. K. Nagaraj, son of late Kaverappa, No.282, Kaveri Nilaya, 3rd Main, Road, K.R. Puram Extension, Bangalore-560 036.
4. Mr. Padmaiah Vuppu, Proprietor, M/s. Fortuna Builders, R/o. of No. 18, Swasthik Shappire Apartments, 10th Cross, 1st Main Pai Layout, Bangalore-560 016
also at Mr. Padmaiah Vuppu, Proprietor, M/s. M.R.S. Fortuna Projects, No. 3159, 1st Floor.
5. Mr. S. Naresh Kumar, son of late N. Sriramulu, R/o. No. 84, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main, Rohini Residency, CIL Colony, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore-560 094.
CONSUMER COMPLAINT NOTICE UNDER SECTION 47 TO THE RESPONDENT No.1 To 5 FOR HEARING OF COMPLAINT IN DAILY ENGLISH NEWS PAPER 'INDIAN EXPRESS' BANGALORE EDITION

Whereas, the Complainant has filed the above complaint seeking remedy against you in Complaint No. 34/2023. You are hereby notified to appear before this Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized to answer all the material facts relating to the complaint **on 17th November, 2023 at 11.00 AM.**

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Complaint will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 9th October 2023

By order of the Commission,
GIREESHA P.N.
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-ASST. ADMN. OFFICER, K.S.C.D.R.C, BANGALORE:560001
Advocate for Complainant : **Kumaraswamy**
Level 4, 52/1, Church Street,
Bangalore - 560001. Mob: 9686406109

FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Under Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries)
Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala – 678 623

Notification No. FCRI/12/2022-23/PO/01 Date of Notification: 24.07.2023
Corrigendum-1 Dated 15 September 2023
Last date for submitting Application extended to 30th October 2023
RECRUITMENT BY DEPUTATION BASIS

Name of Post	No. of Posts [CATEGORY]	Scale of Pay	Age Limit	Tenure
Personnel Officer	1 [GENERAL]	Pay Level 10 in the Pay Matrix	56 years	3 years

For details on Qualifications / Experience criteria and Application, visit **recruit.fcriindia.com**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail ID:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.16,34,495/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Five only)** as on **19-06-2023** together with further interest to be charged from **20-06-2023** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. M.B.C Mazhar Pasha Traders, at Stall No.110, PMC Yard, Ramanagara - 562159. No.2) Mr. Syed Mazhar Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mahaboob Miyan, at 1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Ramanagara - 562160. No.3) Mr. Syed Zoha Muskan, S/o. Mr. Syed Mazhar Pasha, at No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Jamia Masjid, Channapatna - 562159.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Syed Zoha Muskan)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Property No.152900102401520138, Kaneshumari No.14/16/3/14, consisting of East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet of Land situated Appagere Village, Mangalavara Pete Dakale, Kasaba Hobli, Rampura Gram Panchayat, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District. Bounded on:- East by - Site No.13, West by - Site No.15, North by - Road, South by - Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.9,00,000/-
(Rupees Nine Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
07-11-2023	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 02.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **03.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 13-10-2023 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

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Note : That our **198 - Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR: 501812080078757) dated **29-03-2021** requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which Nos.2 & 3 of you stood as Co-Obligants and No.2 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.30,00,000/-** at a ROI of **13.50%.** The same has been also classified as NPA on **31-10-2021** and the outstanding balance as on **11-10-2023** is **Rs.10,13,010/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **12-10-2023** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Mudassir Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Nazeeb Ahmed)
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.163/163/3951, East to West - 55 feet, North to South - 40 feet, Totally measuring 2,200.00 Sq.ft., of land situated at Mahaboob Nagar, Ramanagara. Bounded on the:- East by - Property of Mohammed Mustafa, West by - Municipal Road, North by - Property of Inayath Khan, South by - House of Mudasseer Ahmed (In this above site Area AC Sheet Roof Building exists).

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. Mudassir Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Nazeeb Ahmed)
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.188/165/3952, East to West - 44 feet, North to South - 20 feet, Totally measuring 880 Sq.ft., of the land situated at Mahaboob Nagar, Ramanagara. Bounded on the:- East by - Property of Sharif Pasha, West by - Municipal Road, North by - House of Mudassir Ahmed, South by - Property of Basha (In this above site Area AC Sheet Roof Building exists).

Reserve Price : Rs.60,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Lakh only) (For Schedule - A & Schedule - C)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Mudassir Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Nazeeb Ahmed)
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.282/1636/93/1, East to West - 43 feet, North to South - 40 feet, Totally measuring 1,720.00 Sq.ft., of land situated at Mahaboob Nagar, Ramanagara. Bounded on the:- East by - 16 feet Road, West by - Site of Basha Sab, North by - House of Zubaida Bi, South by - House of Mumtaz (In this above site Area Building with Plinth Area of Ground Floor Plinth Area of Ground Floor - 1,400 Sq.ft., & First Floor - 1,400 Sq.ft., exists).

Reserve Price : Rs.63,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Three Lakh only)

Schedule - D : (Property Owned by Mr. Mudassir Ahmed, S/o. Mr. Nazeeb Ahmed)
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Old Katha No.531/1236, East to West - 40 feet, North to South - 40 feet, Totally measuring 1,600 Sq.ft., of land situated at Mahaboob Nagara, Ramanagara. Bounded on the:- East by - Road, West by - Road, North by - Property of Sameena Taj, South by - Property of Khasim Khan.

Reserve Price : Rs.54,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Four Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
07-11-2023	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316 I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 13-10-2023 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Asset Recovery Branch - II
44, First Floor, Eldams Road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018. Ph: 044-24338112/0393/ 24330392. E-Mail: sbi.70674@sbi.co.in

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER (DEMAND NOTICE)

A notice is hereby given that the following **Borrower/s Shri. Mutharaju S D S/o Shri.Dasegowda,** have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and Interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA). The notices issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but those have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower & Address Housing Term Loan A/c No: 37696905979 & Branch : State Bank of India, Harita Branch at Hosur	Details of Properties/address of Secured assets to be enforced	Outstanding Amount :
Residence Address1: **Shri. Mutharaju S D, S/o Shri.Dasegowda,** Sorekayidoddi Village, Sathanur Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562126. **Residence Address2:** **Shri. Mutharaju S D, S/o Shri. Dasegowda,** No. 4295, 63rd Cross , 25th Main, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560078 **Office Address:** **M/s Anarghya Enterprises, Prop. Shri. Mutharaju S D,** No. 27/28 Ground Floor, 15th Cross, B. Srinivasaiah Layout, Suvarnanagara, Vasanthapura, Bangalore-560062 **Property Address:** **Shri. Mutharaju S D, S/o Shri Dasegowda,** Flat A-322, A Block, Third Floor, Serenity Apartment, Attibele-Sarjapur Main Road, Indlabele Village, Attibele, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District-562107	**SCHEDULE A PROPERTY**: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing New Sy.No.223(Old Sy.No.173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 acres, vide Conversion Order No.ALN(A) (A) SR/107/2010-11 dated 17.03.2010. Situated at Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by: Sarjapura Main Road, West by: Sy.No.173, North by: Sy.Nos.180 & 181, South by: Sai Layout. **SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY: 393** sq.ft Undivided Share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" property **SCHEDULE-C PROPERTY:** A Two bedrooms apartment bearing No.**A-322**, of A Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Gramapanchayath e-Katha No.150200100200320718, Flat No.248/A-322, on the Third Floor of the Building known as **"SIGMA SERENITY"** constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property having a super built up area of 1066 sq.ft (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in common areas and a share in the club house area) together with one covered car parking space in the basement and bounded on East by: A- 320, West by: A – 323, North by: open space, South by: A- 321.	**Rs. 61,10,272/-** (Rupees Sixty one lacs ten thousand two hundred and seventy two only) as on **12.07.2023** with further interest and incidental expenses, costs from **13.07.2023**
		Date of NPA: 10.07.2019
		Date of Notice : 12.07.2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower (s) and / or their guarantor (s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of Publication of this Notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of **60 days** from the date of this notice under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

THIS NOTICE SUPERCEDES ALL THE EARLIER NOTICES ISSUED UNDER SARFAESI

Place : Chennai **Authorised Officer / SBI SARB - II, Chennai**

ICICI Home Finance | **Corporate Office:** ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri- Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059, India
Branch Office: 2nd floor, Sapta Swara complex, Next to Palace Honda show room, Near Fire Brigade, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore- 570009
Branch Office: 1st floor, No.165 & 166, Manjunatha Chambers, Shankar Nagar, Main Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore- 560096

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Srinivas R (Borrower) Ramu A (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHMYS00001303176	Site No 1843 And J201718184364 And 64 Nagappa Layout Jayapura Hobli Mysore Tq And Dt Site No 64 Mysore Karnataka 570008	Rs. 7,21,526/- October 07, 2023	Rs. 4,20,489/- / Rs. 42,050/-	October 16, 2023 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	October 31, 2023 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM
2.	Mohammed Rehan (Borrower) Husna Taj (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. NHBNG00001281894	Site No. 11B, Katha No. 650/11 Site No. 11 B, Katha No.650 11 Situated at Basavanahalli Village, Nelmangala Taluk, Bangalore 562123	Rs. 18,27,410/- October 07, 2023	Rs. 14,87,160/- / Rs. 1,48,720/-	October 16, 2023 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	October 31, 2023 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website **(URL Link- /https://BestAuctionDeal.com)** of our auction agency **GlobeTech.** The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **October 30, 2023** before **05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 2nd floor, Sapta Swara complex, Next to Palace Honda show room, Near Fire Brigade, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore- 570009** on or before **October 30, 2023** before **04:00 PM.** The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 2nd floor, Sapta Swara complex, Next to Palace Honda show room, Near Fire Brigade, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore- 570009** on or before **October 30, 2023** before **05:00 PM.** Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favorof **"ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.-Auction"**payable at **Bangalore.**

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited** on **7021072869** or our **Sales & Marketing Partner NexXen Solutions Private Limited.**

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **https://www.icicihfc.com/**

Date : October 15, 2023 **Authorized Officer**
Place : Bangalore **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**

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Southern Railway General Manager RN Singh said that they are considering possibilities for constructing a third elephant underpass at railway line B at Madukkarai forest range in Tamil Nadu to prevent elephants from getting killed on the tracks

India-Lanka ferry service resumes after 40 yrs; A new chapter, says PM

ANTONY FERNANDO & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@Nagapattinam/ New Delhi

FORTY years after it was stopped due to the Sri Lankan civil war, ferry service between India and the island nation across the Palk Strait resumed on Saturday.

Flagging off the service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka virtually from New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said a new chapter in diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries will be shaped by the initiative. The PM quoted various references from Tamil literary works such as Pattinapalai and Manimekalai to underscore the historical trade links between the two countries through sea route."Connectivity is not only about bridging two cities closer, it is about bringing our countries closer, our people closer, and our hearts closer," Modi said. Spelling out India's objective behind having stronger ties with Sri Lanka, the PM said India's vision is to take development to everyone, leaving none behind. In line with this vision, projects implemented by India in Sri Lanka have brought visible changes in the lives of Sri Lankans, he said. The PM also cited restoration of railway lines, construction of Jaffna Culture Centre and rolling out ambulance services as part of cementing of ties between the two countries. Citing G20 theme, the PM said India puts 'Neighbourhood First' in sharing prosperity and peace. "Another ferry service between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar inSri Lanka will be started soon," Modi said.

Welcoming the resumption of service, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said it will help improve connectivity, trade and cultural links between the two countries. "For thousands of years, people have traversed the Palk Strait to travel from the Indian subcontinent to this island and from Sri Lanka back to the subcontinent. This is how our cultures have developed. This is how our trade developed," Wickremesinghe said in a recorded video message.

The high-speed ferry operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has a capacity of 150 passengers and would cover a distance of about 60 nm (110km) between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai in about 3.5 hours depending on the sea conditions.

Cheriyapani, the ferry which will run between India and SL | PTI

Forums parade woman with shoe garland

ENS @Belagavi/Gokak

OFFICE-BEARERS of Dalit organisations paraded a Dalit woman with a shoe garland over her alleged financial dealings, at Ghataprabha in Gokak on Friday. They alleged the woman had engaged in 'honey trapping' and blackmailing people. They submitted a memorandum to the Belagavi SP, alleging that she was harassing innocent people for money.

The woman filed a counter-complaint, saying that the forums were harassing her for money. On Friday night, the office-bearers allegedly assaulted her. She is admitted to the district hospital.

The woman said, "On September 30, they asked me to give Rs 5 lakh and had threatened to banish me and my family from the town. I refused to pay. They came to my house on Friday night and started harassing me. They assaulted me and my husband and paraded me with a shoe garland."

Gokak DySP DH Mulla said, "The incident took place over financial dealings. There is no truth in the allegations made by both parties."

DMK chief and TN CM MK Stalin with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at his party's Women's Rights Conference in Chennai on Saturday

Women's quota: Sonia slams BJP's 'delay'; Stalin bats for sub-quota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

QUESTIONING the delay in implementing the Women's Reservation Bill by the BJP-led union government, former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Saturday asserted that the opposition INDIA bloc would fight for the early implementation of the bill.

Addressing the Women's Rights Conference organised by the DMK in Chennai, she recalled the interventions made in Parliament by opposition MPs regarding the actual implementation of the bill. "We have no idea... some of you men are happy, but we are not; we women are not," she said, pointing to the delay in quota.

Reiterating his unity pitch to dislodge the BJP regime at the centre during his speech, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin accused the saffron party of "conspiracy" and batted for internal reservation for OBCs and minorities in the quota for women in legislative bodies. "Only if we have an internal reservation, the voice of marginalised and economically disadvantaged would resonate in the Assemblies and Parliament," he said. Key women INDIA bloc leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Mehbooba Mufti and Supriya Sule, spoke at the event.

Stalin said the BJP can be defeated only through unity and Tamil Nadu has been showing the way since the 2019 LS election. "A united alliance, like the one in TN, should be formed in every state," he said. Hitting out at the centre, Sonia Gandhi said the last nine years has seen a sustained effort on the part of the Narendra Modi government to "turn our women purely into symbols to be counted and appreciated only in their restricted, traditional role in a patriarchal framework."

BJP seeks CBI probe into recovery of ₹42 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

SENIOR BJP leaders in Karnataka on Saturday demanded a CBI probe into the recovery of Rs 42 crore from a contractor's residence in Bengaluru by the Income Tax Department officials.

BJP leader and former DyCM R Ashoka said corruption is rampant in Karnataka and the State Government seems to have an understanding with the Congress Central leaders and are providing funds for elections in the five states. "Why was money not released to contractors before the elections were declared in the five states?" he asked.

Contractors' association made baseless allegations against the previous government and now it is working as the government's commission collection centre – Basavaraj Bommai, ex-CM

Ashoka also said that a Telangana minister has alleged that money seized from the contractor's house was being sent to that poll-bound state. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had warned that if Congress comes to power, ATM government will be formed in Karnataka, Ashoka said and added that now it has been proved.

Former CM Basavaraj Bommai said the State Government and the contractors are jointly looting the state and the contractor's association has become the State Government's commission collection centre. The recovery of money has to be probed by ED and CBI, Bommai said.

This is the most corrupt government that Karnataka has seen, the former CM said and added that it had been going on openly and for the first time that a large chunk of money had been recovered from the house of a close relative of a contractor, soon after the release of the pending bill money to the contractors.

The BJP leader said the contractors' association made baseless allegations against the previous government and now the same association was working as the government's commission collection centre.

Forum seeks arrest of Bhagawan

ENS @Mysuru

TENSION prevailed near controversial writer K S Bhagawan's house as hundreds of activists attached to Vokkaligara Sangha tried to storm the building on Saturday protesting the derogatory remark made against the community during the Mahisha Dasara celebration at Town Hall.

The protesters led by Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Vokkaligara Sangha who gathered in front of Bhagawan's house held a protest demanding the arrest of the writer. They tried to barge into the house by pushing the barricades aside erected by the police. However, the police who were in large numbers prevented the protesters from entering the house. "Though Bhagavan belongs to the Vokkaliga community, he has always targeted his own people. Both Bhagawan and University of Mysore former professor Mahesh Chandra Guru should be arrested and banished from the state," said State Vokkaligara Sangha director K V Sridhar.

Contractors: BBMP top brass demanding money

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE chief minister promised us that the maximum possible amount that is due to us would be released in three to four days and the rest in a phased manner in a year as the state's financial situation is bad," Kempanna said after the meeting.

The chief minister, however, did not mention the quantum of the dues the government would pay, he added.

On the income tax department raids on contractor R Ambikapathy, who is also the vice-president of the contractors' association, Kempanna said the association does not have anything to do with the raid. "If he is proven guilty, he will be expelled from our association", he added.

Kempanna told *The New Sunday Express* that the contractors are expecting the government to release around 15-20 per cent of their dues.

The Public Works Department has already taken a step to release around Rs 750 crore, he said. The association's earlier condition that the government should release 50% of the dues will become irrelevant if the government continues to respond to their issues, he added.

Asked if the association will furnish documents to the justice H N Nagamohan Das commission, which is probing the 40% commission allegation by contractors against the previous BJP government, he said if the commission approaches the association, they will provide the documents.

'CM promised to summon officials'

Contractors' association office-bearers, who met the chief minister on Saturday, took the opportunity to complain against the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike top brass. They alleged that the top officials are demanding money from them.

"We complained to the chief minister that some BBMP officials, especially the chief commissioner and the chief engineer, are not behaving with us properly and are demanding money from us. He promised to summon them and set things right," he added.

But he clarified that except corruption in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and other departments, association members did not discuss the percentage of commission being sought from them.

The chief minister promised to call a meeting of the officials concerned in a month.

He told the contractors that they can bring their issues to his notice, and he is ready to resolve them if they are genuine.

M'luru man held for posting video in support of Hamas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

MANGALURU City Police have arrested a person for expressing solidarity with Hamas in its war against Israel. Zakir, who works in a burial ground, and a member of Vishwa Khabarastan Sangha, is the accused. In a 30-second video which is being widely circulated on social media, Zakir appeals people to pray for Hamas by calling them patriots. He appeals Vishwa Khabarastan Sangha members to offer dua or prayer on Friday for the victory of Palestine, Gaza and Hamas patriots.

Bunder police registered a suo-moto case after the video went viral.

Pradeep Kumar, a VHP member, had also lodged a complaint with Bunder police in Mangaluru. In the complaint, the VHP activist said Zakir's statement extending support to Hamas is a threat to national security, and also accused him of communally instigating people of his community. "It looks like he has links with terrorists and he must be arrested for sedition," Pradeep said in his complaint.

Mangaluru City Police have booked the accused under section 153(a)(promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony). He was earlier booked in 8 cases including under section 353(Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 435(Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage to an amount of 100 rupees or upwards, or in case of agricultural produce, 10 rupees or upwards), 448(house-tress-pass) and 363(kidnapping).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client intends to purchase property bearing **Sy.No.55/1 old Sy No 55, Measuring 1 Acre,** situated at Kamenahalli Village, Kundani Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk from Sri.Sudramanya S/o Sri.Anjinappa and bounded on
East by : Property belongs to Sri.Krishnappa;
West by : Property belongs to Sri.Kamenahalli Chikkappaiah;
North by : Property belongs to Smt.Akkaiamma;
South by : Property belongs to Budigere Marappa;
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within 10 days from this day to the undersigned.

SNR ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
Flat No.402, Fourth Floor,
"Samaikyaa's K.K.Veni Plaza"
B.Narayanapura, White Field Main Road,
Bangalore – 560 016. Purchaser:

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that my client **Smt. SHASHIKALA**, W/o. Sri. Somashekar. C. R., has entered into an AGREEMENT FOR SALE with **Smt. MUNIRATHNA B. M.,** W/o. Sri. Govindaraju. B, D/o. Late Muniswamaiah & Smt. V. Venkatalakshmamma, to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder.
Any person/s having any right in or title to or claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature for the proposed sale transaction may within **10 (Ten) days** hereof lodge with the under signed his/her claim in this behalf together with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the above said period, it will be presumed that, no person has any such claim or objection & my client will proceed with the said transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the immovable, property bearing Site No.**27/18**, BBMP Khatha No.551/27/27/1/18, formed in Sy. No.27, New Sy.No.27/1, of **Mallathalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk**, measuring East to West: **45.0 Feet** and North to South: **50.0 Feet**, totally measuring **2250 Square Feet**, along with an 4 Square RCC Roofed building, presently within the limits of BBMP, Jnanabharathi, Ward No.129, Papareddy Palya and bounded on:
East by : 80 Feet Road, West by : 15 Feet Road & Site No.897 of ITI Layout, North by : Site No.27/19, belonging to V. Venkatalakshmamma, South by : Site No.27/17, belonging to M. Sukanya.
Sd/- **NAGARAJA KUMBLE** M.A., LL.B.
#55, 4th Main, BEML 3rd stage,
Rajarajeshwari Nagar, BANGALORE-560098.
Ph: 92424 17700

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NEEDS - Marketing Engineers & Quality Control Engineers for our Hydraulic Division at Belagavi, having minimum experience of 5 years in Hydraulic cylinders, power pack, special purpose machines of Marketing and Quality Control Dept.
Apply to : AFFCIL INDUSTRRIES
(Hydraulic Division),
Plot No 173, Sr No 585,
Opp. KEB Substation,
Machhe Industrial Estate,
Belagavi - 590014
Email :
affcilhydraulics.bgm@gmail.com
or marketing@affcil.com

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Asset Recovery Branch - II
44, First Floor, Eldams Road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018. Ph: 044-24338112/0393/ 24330392. E-Mail: sbi.70674@sbi.co.in

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER (DEMAND NOTICE)

A notice is hereby given that the following **Borrower/s Shri. Hemanth Kumar V, S/o Venkateshaiah R,** have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and Interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA). The notices issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but those have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower & Address Housing Loan - 37698791425 & Branch : State Bank of India, Harita Branch at Hosur	Details of Properties/address of Secured assets to be enforced	Outstanding Amount :
Residence Address: **Shri. Hemanth Kumar V, S/o Venkateshaiah R,** No.15, Ramananda Building, Kanakapura Main Road, Near Shobha Forest View Apartment, Thalaghattapura, Bangalore-560062. **Office Address:** **M/s SMD Enterprises,** Shri. Hemanth Kumar V, 35/2, Near Jyothi Enginnering College, Thathguni, Bangalore-560082 **Property Address:** **Shri. Hemanth Kumar V, S/o Venkateshaiah R**, Flat A-320, A Block, Third Floor, Serenity Apartment, Attibele-Sarjapur Main Road, Indlabele Village, Attibele, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District-562107.	**SCHEDULE A PROPERTY**: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing New Sy.No.223(Old Sy.No.173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 acres, vide Conversion Order No.ALN(A) (A) SR/107/2010-11 dated 17.03.2010. Situated at Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by: Sarjapura Main Road, West by: Sy.No.173, North by: Sy.Nos.180 & 181, South by: Sai Layout. **SCHEDULE - 'B' PROPERTY : 393** sq.ft Undivided Share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" property. **SCHEDULE-C PROPERTY:** A Two bedrooms apartment bearing No. **A-320**, of A Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Gramapanchayath e-Katha No.150200100200320726, Flat No.248/A-320, on the Third Floor of the Building known as **"SIGMA SERENITY"** constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property having a super built up area of 1066 sq.ft (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in common areas and a share in the club house area) together with one covered car parking space in the basement.	**Rs. 62,39,023/-** (Rupees Sixty two lacs thirty nine thousand twenty three only) as on **10.07.2023** with further interest and incidental expenses, costs from **11.07.2023**

Date of NPA: 11.06.2019
Date of Notice : 11.07.2023

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower (s) and / or their guarantor (s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of Publication of this Notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of **60 days** from the date of this notice under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.
THIS NOTICE SUPERCEDES ALL THE EARLIER NOTICES ISSUED UNDER SARFAESI

Place : Chennai — **Authorised Officer / SBI SARB - II, Chennai**

YES BANK
Registered Office : YES BANK LIMITED, YES BANK House, Off Western Express Highway, Santa Cruz East, Mumbai – 400055
Tel: + 91 99230 02312, **CIN : L65190MH2003PLC143249,**
Email:communications@yesbank.in, Website : www.yesbank.in

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT

Notice is hereby given that the under mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the Credit facilities obtained by them from the Bank and whose facility account has been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on their last known addresses but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of Borrower: 1) M/s SVS Foods and Flour Mill (Borrower) Represented by its Partners, Address: Factory Shed situated in # 78, Vasanthanarasapura, Karnataka 572128. **Also At :** No. 76, Magadi Road,Kempapura Agraha,Bangalore,Karnataka 560023. **2) Mrs.M.S Swetha Shree, (Partner & Guarantor) Address:**No. 76, Magadi Road,Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore, Karnataka 560023. **Also At :** No.75, Magadi Road, Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore,Karnataka 560023. **3) Mrs.M.S Shravanthii, (Partner & Guarantor) Address:**No.76, Magadi Road,Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore,Karnataka 560023. **Also At :**No.75, Magadi Road, Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore, Karnataka 560023. **4) Mr. M.S Sujan, (Guarantor) Address:** No.76, Magadi Road, Kempapura Agrahara,Bangalore, Karnataka 560023. **5) Mr. M.S Suraj (Guarantor), Address :** No. 76, Magadi Road, Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore, Karnataka 560023. **6) Mr. M.P Srinivas (Guarantor) Address:** No.76, Magadi Road,Kempapura Agrahara,Bangalore,Karnataka 560023. **7) M/s Sri Lakshmi Srinivasa Roller Flour Mills - (Corporate Guarantor) Address:**No. 76, Magadi Road, Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore, Karnataka 560023.
Loan Account No.'s : 002284600002870, 022LA40213240002, 022LA43210330001
Type of Loans : Term Loan, Overdraft, GECL WCTL
O/s. As per 13(2) Notice: Rs.1,19,87,846.17/- (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six and Seventeen Paisa Only) as on 03.10.2023 together with further interest and other charges contractual rates.
NPA Date: 31st July 2023, **Notice Date: October 7th, 2023**
Particulars of Immovable Properties mortgaged
i.) Property Owned by M/s. SVS Foods and Flour Mill.
Situated in (Please give door/plot No., Name of Street, Village & District : Tumkur Taluk and District, Kora Hobli, within the limits of Yalladadlu Village, comprised in Sy.No.'s 9 & 92, Situated in the vasanthanasapura 2nd Phase Industrial Area, **Survery No./Site No/Flat.:** Plot No.78, **Extent/Area :** Admeasuring 6500 Sq. Meters. **Boundaries : East by :** 18.00 M Wide Road No.23-A, **West by :** Park No.07, **North by :** Road No.12, **South by :** Private Land.
ii.) Property Owned by Mr. M.P Srinivas.
All that piece and parcel of property bearing old No.44/2, presently bearing BBMP No.76, measuring East to West 191.5 + 174/2, North to South 253 ½ + 223 ½ /2, (as per the Khata Extract it is 32453 sq.feet), situated at Kempapura Agrahara, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East By:** Property of Magaji Dhondusa and two shops, **West By:** Drainage, **North By:** Magadi Road, **South By:** Silkote Soda Factory.
Together with a building constructed thereon.

The above borrowers and /or guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of said 60 days under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act.
Furthermore, this is to bring to your attention that under Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Dated : 15-10-2023 — **Sd /- Authorized Officer**
Place : Hyderabad — **For Yes Bank Limited**

Financial inclusion: A reality for this rag picker

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Postal Region on Friday opened a postal account for an elderly, physically challenged, rag picker who had never received any government benefits as he did not have a savings account. Friday is observed as Antyodaya Diwas, a part of the National Postal Week 2023.

The individual is Periasami Govindan, a native of Dharmapuri in TN, who moved to Bengaluru long ago. Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay who was popular for upliftment of the poor and less fortunate.

Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, Rajendra S Kumar, spoke to TNIE, "I found this elderly, disabled person on St Marks Road sorting out waste material. When interacting with him, I came to know he collected waste for his survival. He was not receiving any form of State support despite his age and disability. I found he did not have any account and directed my staff at the nearby office to open a Postal Savings account for him immediately."

Govindan had no house of his own and resided at a Charma Kuteera (Cobbler shop).

"Since he had an Aadhaar card with his Tamil Nadu address, he was able to immediately open a savings account at Museum Road post office. The Postal department made an initial contribution of Rs 1,000 to open it. This is very important as social security benefits are directly transferred to the account of those eligible," the CPMG added.

The department now plans to approach the State government and facilitate the benefits due to him.

"We look at the world once, in childhood. The rest is memory." — Louise Glück

TERRORISM THRIVES AMID RISING GLOBAL DISORDER

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution,* and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

THE images streaming out Israel over the weekend and the visuals which follow out of Gaza must shake the core of humanity. There is no verbal camouflage which can shield terrorism. The notion of impregnable deterrence lies battered by a barbaric attack and the twisted rhetoric of resistance groups is splattered with blood.

The loss of innocent lives is an unprecedented tragedy. The defacement of innocence resulting from the weaponisation of language steeped in moral equivalence should worry the world. The byte brigade seems wilfully blind to the complex circumstance. The bloody history of the Israeli-Palestine conflict cannot be a justification for what is unadulterated terrorism. Neither is the call for untrammelled retribution—risking the lives of the civilians of Gaza and the Israeli abductees—realistic or defensible.

The discourse about the massacre is marked by comparisons—the Tet Offensive, the 9/11 terror attacks, the targeting of Mumbai on 26 November. The narrative is punctuated with what-ifs—the accuracy of Egypt's warning, the possibility of cyberattacks, the mess represented by the Netanyahu regime. The indisputable fact is that the cause and consequence of terrorism are visibly riveted at the hip.

Terrorism is thriving amid rising global disorder. For years now, countries have sought refuge behind verbal calisthenics of the dreadful cliché—one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. Every major terror attack finds the world divided in silos of contextual interests. The standard approach is to condemn terrorism but offer cover to terrorist organisations. The cosy refuge offered by opportunistic regimes has emboldened terror attacks across the world.

The UN is the designated custodian of human rights. It has an obligation to live up to its charter. Engulfed by its inadequacies, the United Nations can only lament and bleat. In the past week the UN has been a spectator as the US, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other countries worked to prevent a conflagration.

The global body has struggled to even define terrorism. The first debate on defining terrorism in the UN was in 1972 in the aftermath of the attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. The best the UN could do was to set up a committee. On December 18, 1972, the 27th General Assembly set up a committee to examine measures and passed a resolution with a 58-word title which stretches from acts of terrorism to the desperation of terrorism to the causes of terrorism. The title is an eloquent testimony of the cross-currents of interests which render the UN ineffectual.

Even after the horrific 9/11 terror attacks there was no consensus. Sir Jeremy Greenstock, British ambassador to the UN, told the General Assembly, "Increasingly, questions are being raised about the problem of the definition of a terrorist. Let us be wise and focused about this: terrorism is terrorism... What looks, smells and kills like terrorism is terrorism." That didn't help either, as members were stuck in their rut. Indeed on December 2, 2004, Secretary General Kofi A Annan, responding to the calls to "articulate an effective and principled counter-terrorism strategy", said at the 59th General Assembly, "One of the obstacles hitherto, I believe, has been the inability of the membership to agree on a definition of terrorism."

For years India has voiced concern that the global body has neither a common definition nor a policy to tackle the scourge and dismantle its networks. It is not just the lack of definition that has afflicted the ability of the UN to act. Its processes are disabled by the operating system. The lack of representative legitimacy and a governance structure dominated by veto wielders has shackled any attempt to coordinate counter-terrorism measures.

Notwithstanding the absence of a definition, the UN has a Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. Empowered by a 2006 resolution (A/RES 60/288) which obliges member nations to "take practical steps, individually and collectively, to prevent and combat terrorism". The term 'prevent' appears 20 times in the resolution but it hasn't prompted members from acting on known facts about who is harbouring terrorists.

The UN General Assembly has passed nearly 45 resolutions as part of its global strategy to prevent financing of terrorism and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. The problematic absence of a globally accepted definition and adoption of convenient interpretations shields terrorists. Terrorism has spiralled and state sponsors of terrorism have escaped action.

The UN has till date placed 31 regimes under sanctions—beginning with Southern Rhodesia in 1966. Currently 15 regimes are under sanctions. The UN has also placed under sanctions over a thousand individuals and entities involved in terrorism. The list is remarkable for who or which entities are not on it. The fact that Taliban is ruling in Afghanistan spells the saga. This June, China vetoed a proposal moved by the US and India to place sanctions on those involved in fomenting terror in Punjab and Kashmir. It is instructive to note that there are UN sanctions and then there are US sanctions. Hamas is on the US sanctions list but not on the UN sanctions list.

The faultlines causing global disorder are widening. The rules-based order which came in 1945 is flailing. The events across the world unfolding on our screens illuminate the spectre of uncertainty caused by a lack of visionary global leadership. The horrors of terrorism may seem geographically distant but they represent a global threat which must be addressed.

STOP INDIRA-ISATION OF POLITICS

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

FESTIVALS are ancient rites which celebrate divine power and man's obeisance to god. They represent the aesthetics of worship, enriching cultures and societies. Bharat is a civilisation of timeless festivals. There is hardly a region where a patron deity isn't celebrated joyously almost every month. But another festival of recent provenance has become a ritual of homage to human deities. During the past three decades, elections have become frequent festivals in India with one taking place in a state or a constituency almost every month. Sadly, these aren't celebrations that display unity and joy. They honour the grim gods of divide-and-rule.

Next month onwards, about 161 million voters in five states—Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram—will elect 679 mini *devtas*. These fiestas hardly sweeten India's political marketplace since they cover only around a sixth of India's total assembly constituencies and span 83 Lok Sabha seats. Yet, the imminent month-long political carnival will definitely define the stature of many national and regional leaders.

At stake is the winnability quotient of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all three Gandhis—Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka—and the incumbent chief ministers and their visible challengers. The battle is primarily between the Congress and the BJP, with other players acting as spoilers or marginal players. Both the national parties are struggling to curate a victory template. These elections will not be lost on won on the basis of projects inaugurated or freebies promised, but mostly on the performance of the CMs and MLAs. National leaders do attract crowds but are usually unable to take them to the polling booths and offer *prasad* at these mass *melas*. For a robust democracy, all the parties must ensure that state elections are meant to be of the locals, by the locals and for the locals.

For the Congress, the state polls signify a struggle to not just retain its shrunk electoral base, but also to expand it. Its credentials will be burnished only if it retains Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and recaptures Madhya Pradesh, which the BJP hijacked using defections. The Congress, which couldn't capitalise on the formation of Telangana, must assert its forgotten identity.

SOURAV ROY

On the other hand, the BJP has more to prove. It must retain Madhya Pradesh and defeat the Congress in the other two states to re-establish its status as the party which rules over a majority of the states, which was the case until a couple of years ago. But how will saffron fly its flag in states it has lost earlier? Many BJP insiders believe the solution is to give more freedom to local leaders and allow them to choose the candidates. They think the party must abandon its model of paradropping VIP campaigners from other states and reduce Modi's exposure as a crowd puller. He remains their trump card and WMD for political rivals at the national level, assuring BJP's victory in 2024. However, the vanishing tribe of local satraps with integrity and acceptability has made his job difficult.

This dilemma was evident in Karnataka, where the party lost in spite of Modi drawing huge crowds. An analysis of the last 30-odd assembly elections reveals that the BJP's strike rate has plummeted in those states. Undoubtedly, it added more states to its kitty in the first round of state elections, boosted by Modi's campaign charisma after he became prime minister in 2014.

Until 2017, the BJP was flying solo or with allies in around 20 states. It started losing states in 2018, when the Congress bagged Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. It subsequently lost more states—Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana, Himachal, Karnataka and Bihar. Assam, Uttarakhand and UP were the only expected outcomes. Meanwhile, some BJP allies left the NDA, thereby weakening its local bases.

Moreover, unlike during the Vajpayee-Advani era where decentralisation of power was the norm, the current leadership prefers a centralised command and control structure. A new BJP has emerged with young leaders yet to deliver major electoral successes in their states, while senior satraps are being purged. Once, Vajpayee was the party's national star; his galaxy had many little stars shining in the skies of various states. Modi was the brightest among Shivraj Chouhan, Shanta Kumar, Keshubhai Patel, Pramod Mahajan, Yediyurappa, Madan Lal Khurana, Kalyan Singh, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Vasundhara Raje and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. They were the architects of the model of "*Pehle panch pradesh, phir poora desh* (First five states, then the whole country)". The BJP won five states under Vajpayee and added about a dozen more after Modi captured the national stage in 2014. But none of its current CMs, barring Yogi Adityanath, is capable of ensuring victory in their states. They depend on Modi and Amit Shah for resources, forces and political vehicles to win the war.

The situation in the Congress is worse in terms of talent and strategy. After the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and son Rajiv, the party hasn't won a majority in the Lok Sabha. It crossed the 200 mark just once. Indira's Congress became the political cemetery of mass state leaders after she started running it as her own fiefdom. She ruthlessly reduced her party's local giants to pygmies; a style adopted by Rajiv and later by Sonia. The Congress '*Bahu* (daughter in law)' could bring her party to power only by forging an alliance with outfits that had left the NDA. But she couldn't ensure the return of the Congress by itself at the Centre and even lost many states to the BJP.

But it seems the Gandhis have learnt their lesson—propping many mini-Manmohan Singhs nationally and Bhupesh Baghel, Sachin Pilot, D K Shivakumar and Bhupinder Hooda regionally could yield dividends. While holding the reins firmly in their hands, the Family has restored a sense of unity in the Congress ranks. This tactic yielded electoral dividends in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Both parties are victims of excessive dependence on their national leaders and personality cults. The projection of Indira as the INC's iconic national commander served them well once. The model has passed its expiry date. The time has come for both parties to dump the Indira-isation of Indian politics. They shouldn't be misled by semi-robust opinion polls which generate psychologically amplified popularity by deliberately asking respondents who the most popular prime minister is while forecasting the results of state polls. Taking the limelight away from the *dhartiputras* and *putris* (sons and daughters of the soil) of a state may buff the images of the badshahs of the Delhi Darbar, but will ultimately reduce geographical clout and regional mindspace. Modi's original call of 'Vocal for local' must be implemented on the ground. Else, the gods governing the glittering galas of glory risk becoming fading idols in the broken temples of lost ambitions.

GREED AND FOLLY FEEDING CYBER FRAUD

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author
most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

WILLIAM Blake—the poet who wrote "to hold infinity in the palm of your hand"—would be speechless at how his words manifest in today's age. Modern technology has thrust the app-loaded phone, loaded with its infinite possibilities, into our hands. It can perform myriad tasks like a genie.

The other day, I was making a list of things this magnificent digital ecosystem cannot provide. The foremost would be security. Security breaches involve capturing confidential data and manipulating it; at times they can involve state actors too. But what affects the vast majority of users is financial fraud. Some are now targeting users of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Recent reports suggest that financial frauds accounted for three-fourths of all cybercrimes in India between January 2020 and June 2023.

More often than not, business entities can secure their trade secrets and safeguard themselves from data theft and corporate espionage. This is not the case for individual users who are being increasingly targeted with pervasive and pernicious attacks. Phishing, vishing, smishing, watering holes, refund scams, form jacking, SIM swapping—the classification of these scams is an ongoing enterprise.

Users are told not to share passwords and OTPs, and not to click on embedded and unknown links. But just when users are forewarned of a particular method of attack, a new and stealthier one emerges. Take the QR code scam. It has all the trappings of a legitimate transaction. Sellers who use online platforms are sent an innocuous QR code by an alleged buyer to receive money. When they scan the code, they may find that their bank account has been emptied.

I have experienced a variant of the QR code scam. I had scanned my phone to make a payment via Google Pay at an eatery. This was the only time I did so. The next day I found that three messages had been sent from my phone to three different, unknown numbers authorising transactions on G-Pay. I had not sent the messages; I asked a tech-savvy colleague for advice. He suggested that I delete my G-Pay account from the phone, remove the SIM card and use it from another device. According to him, the phone's security had been compromised. I checked on True Caller the numbers to which the messages had been sent and realised that what had happened to me had been reported by other users almost two years earlier. I added a few more bytes to the existing spam reports, thanking my stars that I had suffered no monetary loss. What was surprising was that while these scamsters had been identified and called out in public, they continued to operate with impunity.

As the ease of transaction increases, vulnerability to exploitation increases manifold. A welcome recent change is that when a message is received from an unknown number, WhatsApp warns the user that such a number is not on the contact list and that the profile name and photo are not verified. This is a useful alert and should raise a doubt in the mind of the targeted user.

Vulnerability rises with the increasing ease of transaction on app-loaded phones. Organised gangs train young con artists who can deprive people of their hard-earned money in a flash

Ten districts in India have been identified as places from which organised gangs operate and target users of digital services. These gangs exploit technically skilled and unemployed youngsters to their advantage. They are con artists who can deprive people of their hard-earned money in a flash. Concerted attempts must be undertaken to break the nexus between such gang leaders and the youth they train and employ.

That gets me thinking on the entire process. There is a limit on the amount one can withdraw through various modes, including at the ATM. The National Payments Corporation of India has set limits for UPI transactions. Individual users should also be encouraged to fix withdrawal limits, as it will save them from extensive damage. Today, even an attempt to log out of social media invites solicitous checks on whether you really wanted to exit when you could just temporarily mute the app. In our AI-mediated ecosystem, when any suspicious activity is detected, the customer should rightfully be informed of the stakes before the transaction is completed.

There is a related issue worth considering. The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation ensures protection cover for bank deposit holders in the event of a failure of insured banks. This can serve as a model. Given that UPI is extensively used today, protection from loss by fraud could be made available to users for a reasonable fee.

Educating on the need for using safe practices while performing digital transactions should be included in efforts to achieve financial inclusion and literacy. Emerging methods of identifying suspicious transactions should be documented and given wide publicity. Most importantly, users should be trained to develop a healthy suspicion towards those who solicit information online and offer get-rich-quick schemes. It is necessary to remember that greed, gullibility and folly feed on one another.

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER

This may be the most dangerous time the world has seen in decades. My caution is that we are facing so many uncertainties out there. The wars may have far-reaching impacts on energy and food markets, global trade and geopolitical relationships.

Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase, the biggest American bank, to investors while announcing the latest quarterly results

I'll never forget that Bibi Netanyahu let us down. We were disappointed by that. But we did the job ourselves with absolute precision.

Donald Trump, former US president, about the 2020 operation to kill Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani in Iraq

You feel nice about playing in front of your home crowd. You can use the support, but eventually you've got to play good cricket to win the game.

Rohit Sharma, captain of the Indian cricket team, on the eve of the World Cup match with Pakistan

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Judging judges

K M Chandrasekhar discusses threadbare the present pathetic state of the judiciary. The opinion of the former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi that corruption has become an acceptable way of life is strange. As suggested by the columnist, a penalty system should be instituted wherein judges would be judged based on their case disposal and performance.

M Haneef, Kottayam

Scrap cramming

The article on student stress was quite thought-provoking. The education system supports memorising and then regurgitating in three hours. There are high-scorers in chemistry who would struggle to explain the acidity of a solution. A civil engineer would struggle to use the theodolite. Cramming must go from the system.

Buddha Jagdish Rao, Visakhapatnam

Strengthen minds

The article on student stress is a fair coverage of the causative factors and the remedial measures. It is imperative that students develop their mental strength and emotional resilience to meet the challenges of life. It is akin to developing a strong immune system against diseases.

K Venkatasubramanian, Coimbatore

Sachi eulogy

The demise of veteran journalist Sachidananda Murthy is a huge loss to the journalistic fraternity. Sachi, as he was known, was an exemplary newsman who set the bar very high for himself and for others. He wrote a regular, well-read column for the periodical and also served several media bodies with great distinction. Sachi shone as a mentor to several cub reporters.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Gaza inhumanity

That Israel military ordering a million Palestinian people to move from North Gaza to the south within twenty hours is the height of inhumanity. It would be a blot on the idea of civility. If the attack of Hamas on Israel was bad, the retaliatory attack of Israel on Gaza is worse. One terrorist act cannot be justified in the name of another. Both sides are victims of circumstances, of history and of manoeuvres of the West.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Palestine plebiscite

The UN should be allowed to conduct a referendum or a plebiscite across the disputed territories of Gaza and the rest of Palestine to settle the land disputes permanently and ensure peaceful coexistence in a weapons-free zone.

P V Madhu Nivriti, Secunderabad

Freebie Frisbee

Political leaders campaigning in the election-bound states are promising so many freebies just to get votes. It is definite that they will not have any realistic financial plan to implement these promises. Already, Karnataka is struggling to implement the schemes it announced. It is high time to educate the voters about them. The Election Commission should also step in to ensure that political parties spell out their financial plans.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Inching forward

It is heartening that the Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth Rs 57.75 crore in the Karuvannur scam. This is only the tip of an iceberg, many to follow. It is intriguing that the gold smuggling case being investigated by the ED for several years has not progressed an inch other than the arrest of Sivasankaran.

M T Thomas, Peruva

Chant bounty

Renuka Narayanan's column, 'Finding the spiritual treasure within', was written well while traveling into the spiritual depths. The author has rightly highlighted the positive effects of chanting. The practice transcends religions, regions and creeds.

R Sampath, Chennai

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis
Our government has decided to help soybean farmers! Today farmers are being paid ₹6000 each by the central and state governments.

Bhupesh Baghel @bhupeshbaghel
BJP is not even contesting elections in Chhattisgarh. Only Raman Singh and his team are contesting the elections.

Tushar Gandhi @TusharG
I stand with Palestinians, not with the methods employed by Hamas. I empathise with Jews, not with the Zionist Apartheid State of Israel.

Will continue diplomacy for global peace: P20

Brazil takes over presidency as G20 Speakers' Summit ends; SDGs, green energy, women-led development discussed

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with Arthur César Pereira de Lira, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, during the handing over of P20 Presidency on Saturday | PTI

ALL countries and all Parliaments are sovereign and their internal issues should not be discussed by others, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Saturday, the last day of the Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P-20), a part of the G20 Summit, held in the national capital.

In today's inter-connected world, no one can view any particular issue in isolation, Birla said in his concluding speech of the two-day summit, which saw the participation of Speakers from various developing and developed countries.

Birla read out the joint statement released, whose Paragraph 27 said, "We will continue parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue in relevant fora as a catalyst for promoting international peace, prosperity and harmony while supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes".

Underlining the various resolutions moved, the Lok Sabha Speaker said the valuable views and inputs on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), green energy, women-led development and digital public infrastructure will further strengthen the G20 process for human-centered development.

Touching upon the defined role of Parliamentarians, Birla said that as public representatives, the Members of Parliament (MPs) are in a special position to formulate the necessary policies and laws to fulfill the hopes, aspirations and needs of the masses. "Their role is to complement the efforts of the government and ensure good governance for public welfare", he asserted. He handed over India's P20 presidency to the Presidency to Parliament of Brazil.

On the sideline of P20, Birla also met the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Duarte Pacheco. He said that India's continued participation in the diverse activities of the IPU and its committees reflects a commitment to furthering the purpose of the IPU.

Birla held bilateral talks with Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation. He said that India and Russia have long-standing deep relations in diverse fields like military, agriculture, energy, and science and technology.

He held also bilateral discussions with the Vice President of the European Parliament Nicola Beer, Turkey's counterpart Kurtulmus, Singapore Speaker Seah Kian Peng, Netherlands's Jan Anthonie Bruijn, South Africa Senate president Nosiviwe Noluthando Mapisa-Nqakula on the sidelines of the P20 Summit.

He held a bilateral meeting with Mexico counterpart Castillo and talked about the recent 'Nari Shakti Vandan' Bill (Women's Reservation Bill).

The P20 Summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Addressing the inaugural session, Modi said terrorism anywhere in the world and in any form is against humanity and it is time for peace and brotherhood and to move forward while walking together, Modi said.

He said that conflicts and confrontations in any part of the world impact everyone and do not benefit anyone, as he called for the world to move forward with a human-centric approach. His remarks came against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

HARDLINER NOT AT PEACE AT HOME OR ABROAD

YESHI SELI

SOURAV ROY

ISRAEL saw huge weekly protests since the start of the year against the government's reform plans. As months passed, the scale of the protests intensified in towns and cities. The government (with a comfortable majority in parliament) passed into law in July the first planned change – the so-called "reasonableness" bill. This removed the power of the Supreme Court (and lower courts) to cancel government decisions deemed "extremely unreasonable." Protesters called for all the planned reforms to be scrapped and for Prime Minister Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu, to resign. Netanyahu's political rivals, as well as former top officials in Israel's military, intelligence services, former chief justices and prominent legal figures joined in criticizing the government.

Officers of Israel's feared external intelligence service, Mossad (motto: By way of Deception Thou shalt Do War), and internal secret agency, Shin Bet (motto: Defender That Shall Not Be Seen) have earned their epaulets through some complicated situations. Netanyahu believed them to the point of being absolutely spotless. October 7, 2023, proved otherwise as hordes of Hamas overran Israeli check posts, hoodwinking the hi-tech fenced walls and closely guarded entrances through land, air and sea. Bibi (73) had little choice and declared war that now threatens to expand with Syria, Lebanon and Iran joining in against Tel Aviv in the war on Palestine.

However, despite the rhetoric, Netanyahu's popularity has taken a beating. Israel's public diplomacy minister Galit Distel Atbaryan has stepped down from her post citing the stripping of her ministry's already limited powers. Atbaryan's decision comes after the Netanyahu's government empowered the Diaspora Affairs Ministry to oversee Israel's international public diplomacy efforts alongside the Foreign Ministry earlier this week.

Meanwhile, a poll conducted by Israeli research institutes indicates that Netanyahu's popularity has dropped since Hamas's devastating attack last weekend, while that of Benny Gantz, a former general who's now part of Israel's "war cabinet," has surged. The survey showed opposition parties would win a crushing majority against Netanyahu's coalition if elections were held now. Of the roughly 600 people surveyed, 48% said Gantz was their preferred prime minister, while 29% chose Netanyahu.

Netanyahu, the longest-serving Israeli Prime Minister, has repeatedly formulated his policies around the idea that Israel can resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict without engaging with the Palestinians.

However, the present conflict and the opposition it is receiving shows something else. There have been pro-Palestine protests across the world. An Israeli diplomat was stabbed in Beijing raising security concerns of Israelis living across the world.

Netanyahu, elected for his 6th term on December 29, 2022, is known to be the most far right and religious leader in Israel. He is also on trial for corruption.

Netanyahu was born in Jaffa in 1949. His mother, Tzila Segal, was an Israeli born Jew and father Benzion Netanyahu was from Poland. PM Netanyahu was raised in Jerusalem and went to the US for his high school.

NEWSMAKER

On May 13, 1969, Sgt. Benjamin Netanyahu made his way through the marshlands of northwestern Sinai. He was seated in an armored half-track. Night had just fallen and the future prime minister would soon be in a battle for his life in the warm, tidal waters of the Suez Canal.

Speaking before a joint session of Congress in 2011, Netanyahu made a terse mention of that evening. "I remember what it was like before we had peace," he told the ardently hospitable crowd. "I was nearly killed in a firefight inside the Suez Canal. I mean that literally."

Netanyahu soon became an elite commando who served as captain during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. In 1982, Netanyahu was appointed deputy chief of mission at the Israeli embassy in Washington. In 1984, he was appointed Israel's ambassador to the United Nations.

His political career began when he was appointed as deputy foreign minister in 1988 in the cabinet of the then PM Yitzhak Shamir. He became the chairman of Likud party in 1993, which he lost to Ariel Sharon and regained it in 2005. He served as the PM of Israel from 1996 to 1999 and a record 12-year tenure from 2009 to 2021.

This month marks his sixth term as prime minister. It may also mark the most critical period for Israel since its independence in 1948 as its allies count the advantages and disadvantages of a protracted war and its foes take time to close ranks.

5 housing ministry offices fail to submit RTI returns, CIC for secy intervention

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AT least five offices under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) have not submitted their quarterly returns related to the Right to Information Act (2005) to the Central Information Commission (CIC) for a year despite repeated reminders.

Considering the status, the commission has written to secretary of the ministry Manoj Sinha seeking his intervention, requesting him to ask the authorities concerned to send required details.

In a letter to the ministry, the CIC informed Joshi that communiques pertaining to the return submission of 2022-23 were sent in June, July, and August. Reminders were also sent electronically, besides regular follow-ups for the purpose, stated the statutory body set up under the Right to Information Act in 2005.

"It is to bring to your notice that some public authorities under your ministry/department have still not submitted their annual returns to the commission. Your intervention is required for advising these authorities to submit the returns at the earliest," it read.

It further stated that the designated might be approached in case any assistance is required.

As per the mandate of the Act, the public authorities need to maintain all their records duly catalogued and indexed. The Clause B of sub-section 1 also stated that it shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority to provide as much information suo motu to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication.

In quarterly returns, the public authorities need to give information about applications received under the RTI Act and their status — disposal, replied, or pending.

Following the reference from the CIC, the ministry has asked the offices to upload their pending quarterly return on the CIC portal immediately and also put the required information on the website every month "without fail to avoid unnecessary delay."

What law mandates

- As per the RTI Act, the public authorities need to maintain all their records duly catalogued and indexed
- In quarterly returns, the public authorities need to give information about applications received under the RTI Act and their status — disposal, replied or pending

SC: 'Educated and god-fearing' not a guarantee for good repute

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

IT cannot be said that a person's reputation is good merely because he is "educated and god-fearing," the Supreme Court has observed.

The observation came in a judgment as a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and J B Pardiwala was dealing with a plea against a conviction for life imprisonment imposed by the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

"A court of law cannot declare the reputation of a person good based upon its own opinion, merely because a person is educated and is said to be god-fearing. That by itself will not create a positive reputation," stated the order.

Reversing the High Court order, which was passed against a trial court order, the apex court held that the High Court had "misconstrued the concept of reputation and blindly believed the evidence" of a prosecution witness, on whom the it primarily relied.

The High Court had said that "being a natural, educated and god-fearing person, his testimony has to be accepted."

While admitting that "reputation is indeed a fact" under the Evidence Act, the top court pointed out that reputation "forms part of internal facts and therefore it is required to be proved in the form of the opinion of persons who form it accordingly."

It was observed that character and reputation do have an element of interconnectivity. Reputation is predicated on the general traits of character. In other words, the character may be subsumed into reputation.

"Courts are not expected to get carried away by the mere background of a person, especially while acting as an appellate forum, when his conduct, being a relevant fact, creates serious doubt. In other words, the conduct of a witness under Section 8 of the Evidence Act is a relevant fact to decide, determine and prove the reputation of a witness. When the conduct indicates that it is unnatural from the perspective of normal human behaviour, the so-called reputation takes a back seat," the order stated.

"When reputation is to be taken as a relevant fact, its evidentiary value becomes restrictive and limited. It is indeed a weak piece of evidence when becomes relatable to a fact in issue," the order read.

The trial court has given substantial reasons for arriving at its conclusion. One has to keep in mind that it is the prosecution which has to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt, the bench stated.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Man fined for calling judge's oath defective

A cost of ₹5 lakh was imposed on a man for claiming in a PIL that the oath taken by the Bombay High Court chief justice was "defective". The court said it was a frivolous attempt to gain publicity. A bench headed by the CJI DY Chandrachud said such objections cannot be raised on the oath administered by the Governor.

Compliance with rice labelling rules sought

The Central government was told to apprise the court about steps taken to comply with a provision of the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018, that labels on bags containing fortified rice should carry an advisory that it is harmful for people suffering from sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia.

World will see more assertive China, decline in Russia's importance: General Anil Chauhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan on Saturday said that the global geopolitical environment of the world is in a state of flux. "In fact, the world is transiting between two orders — the old order is weathering away and the shape of the new order is yet to be stabilised. In spite of Russia being a nuclear power, its importance in geopolitics will decline in the coming years, and the world will see a more assertive China," he said.

He was speaking at the 14th Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture which was organised by the Air Force Association (Karnataka branch), in association with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru.

He added that armed forces need to reform and transform otherwise they will become irrelevant and extinct like dinosaurs. "Indo-Pacific is fast emerging and will be an area of future contestation. There will be the emergence of multi-polar world order polycentric and polyconic competition and cooperation with each other. There will be no permanent friends or enemies and this relationship will evolve faster than ever before," he observed speaking on emerging geopolitical, geo-technological and geo-economic changes around the globe.

Speaking about India and its opportunities, he explained that whether the world is ready to meet the global demand for defence could be an opportunity for India to grow its defence industry. The country can "emerge as a global leader of the South," the G20 presidency is a good indication, he added.

"The appointment of CDS is the first set of reforms that India has taken... the second set of reforms should be the creation of theatre commands which will be a fundamental change in coming times," he elaborated.

Looking at the global scenario, he said the world is moving towards uncertainty and uncharted territories which is pushing nations to double-up their defence budgets. "Who would have predicted 8 days ago about Israel-Palestine war... this is the uncertainty we are living in. So many countries in the Middle East are in conflict, in fact, we talk about world order but it's actually world disorder," he said during his keynote.

'Nature of warfare is changing'

The character of warfare is changing because of emerging technologies and is no longer limited to air, land or sea, the CDS said. He added, "War has now gone to different domains today, such as science, space, cyber, information, propaganda and legal warfare." The armed forces are cognisant of these changes and are accordingly adapting, he added.

GLASS CEILING BROKEN

Tribal becomes Manipur High Court's first woman judge

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

RETIRED judicial officer Golmei Gaiphulshillu Kabui broke the glass ceiling by becoming the first woman judge of Manipur High Court. Her name was recommended for appointment as a judge by the Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on January 10 this year.

The Centre on Friday notified her appointment and that of two other judges. While Kabui, a Naga, belongs to ST community, the two others are from SC and OBC communities.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Golmei Gaiphulshillu Kabui to be judge of the Manipur High Court with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office," the notification issued by the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Justice (Appointments Division), read.

The swearing-in ceremony is likely to take place on Monday.

Kabui was also the Manipur High Court's first woman Registrar and Registrar General. She joined service as a Grade III officer of Manipur Judicial Service in 1995 and retired as the Registrar General of the High Court in March this year.

She did not take phone calls but a family friend told this newspaper that she was happy over her appointment. "Her phone has been busy ever since the news broke. Her friends and relatives are calling her to congratulate her," the family friend said.

Kabui pursued her school, college and law (LLB) education in Manipur's capital Imphal where she was born. Her husband is an Indian Police Service officer who is serving as an Inspector General in Manipur Police. The couple has three children.

Kabui's appointment is significant, for it not only broke gender barriers but also opened the doors to communities that have been historically underrepresented in the upper echelons of judiciary.

GATEWAY FRAUD

Thane police has arrested one more person in connection with the financial crime that involved breaching the system of a payment gateway service provider and siphoning off more than ₹16,180 crore, an official said.

12 CRORE WORTH METHAMPHETAMINE TABLETS SEIZED IN MIZORAM

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	26	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	35	22	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	37	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	32	20	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	30	27	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	35	25	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	35	19

■ BJP may field 18 MPs in assembly polls as party changes tactics ■ INDIA bloc suffers schism as consensus on seat-sharing eludes allies

Winnability: More MPs, ministers may join fray

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP has frontloaded the winnability factor in its scheme of things for the assembly elections due next month ahead of the parliamentary polls next year. More than 18 party MPs, including 4 Union ministers, are being fielded for the election-bound Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

The changed strategy is aimed at two fronts: create space for new faces for the LS elections and then ensure victory on "weak" seats by fielding influential MPs and ministers.

"It is a well-crafted strategy. With a reservoir of experience, these MPs and Union ministers have a strong grip over the Assembly constituencies chosen for them," said a senior party leader. "The party may field more MPs and Union ministers for assembly elections."The broader perspective being projected at the moment is that if these MPs lose their seats in assembly elections, they could be asked to mentor the new faces in the party without going into the LS elections.

"If they don't win the assembly seats, on what basis could their winnability be considered for the LS elections? In a way, it is also a test for them", remarked a party leader.

The BJP wants to ensure at least 17% of nominations to young and qualified faces for the LS elections and 33% seats reserved for women.

"Fielding MPs for assembly elections is not new for BJP; it has taken place at selective levels. Earlier, Yogi Adityanath was also fielded in assembly elections when he was MP from Gorakhpur in 2017. Those who would win would certainly help in creating space for new faces for the LS polls. Those who are unable to win would automatically be dropped in the parliamentary polls," said a senior party functionary.

The party has so far fielded four Union ministers -- Narendra Singh Tomar, Pralhad Singh Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste in MP and Renuka Singh in Rajasthan. However, sources said at least half-a-dozen MPs may also be fielded in assembly elections. The names of two Union ministers – Jyotiraditya Scindia and Arjun Meghawal -- are doing rounds as probable candidates for assembly elections.

Meanwhile, party sources also hinted that over a dozen MPs, who have crossed the age of 60-65 years from UP and Bihar are also likely to be dropped to accommodate fresh faces who have made their presence felt in their respective constituencies and are suited to the local "social engineering."

> It is a well-crafted strategy. With a reservoir of experience, these MPs and Union ministers have a strong grip over the Assembly constituencies chosen for them
>
> Senior BJP leader

Strategy for LS polls

The broader perspective being projected is that if these MPs lose their seats in assembly elections, they could be asked to mentor the new faces in the party without going into the LS elections. "If they don't win, on what basis could their winnability be considered for the LS polls?" asked a senior BJP leader.

State poll dynamics won't be a spoiler in '24: INDIA

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

> If we were to have a seat adjustment, that would have been good. But we don't see that as a hurdle. The INDIA bloc aims to field a common candidate against the NDA in selected seats for the 2024 elections
>
> Ghanshyam Tiwari, SP leader

IN the run-up to the assembly polls in five states, a consensus on seat-sharing may pose a real test for the constituents of the INDIA bloc, which is formed to take on the BJP-led NDA in the 2024 parliamentary polls.

Though alliance partners of the INDIA bloc such as AAP and Samajwadi Party are pitted against Congress in some poll-bound states, its leaders maintain that state elections anchor on local dynamics and that hick-ups at the state level wouldn't be a hurdle at the national level. On Friday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP released its third list of candidates for the Chhattisgarh assembly elections, making it a total of 33 candidates in the 90-member assembly.

Besides the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, AAP has also fielded candidates in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. While in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, Congress is looking to retain power, the grand old party is hoping to snatch power from the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in Madhya Pradesh.

The Akhilesh Yadav-led SP has announced candidates in at least seven seats in Madhya Pradesh, where Congress has a strong presence.

After the first meeting of the coordination committee of the INDIA bloc on September 13, the parties had said that they would begin seat-sharing talks for the states at the earliest. Contesting claims that alliance parties lack unity in seat-sharing, SP leader Ghanshyam

Tiwari told this newspaper that the INDIA alliance's main focus is the national election.

"State elections often anchor on local dynamics. If we were to have a seat adjustment, that would have been good. But we don't see that as a hurdle. The INDIA bloc aims to field a common candidate against the NDA in selected seats for the 2024 elections," said Tiwari. Though he was not involved in seat-sharing talks, Tiwari hinted at talks between Congress and SP top leadership in MP on seat arrangements.

"Being a dominant player in MP, the onus is on the Congress to discuss with every member of the INDIA alliance that may have political support and candidates in MP," he said.

Speaking to this paper, INDIA bloc coordination committee member and CPI leader **D Raja** said in Telangana, Left parties are in talks with the Congress and a deal will be sealed soon. The primary aim of the parties is to strive towards preventing the BJP from taking advantage of the division of votes, he said.

AAP fields candidates

Besides the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, AAP also fielded candidates in MP and Rajasthan. Congress is looking to retain power, the grand old party is hoping to snatch power from the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in MP

RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Filmmaking workshop organised for locals

A workshop was recently organised to teach the skills of filmmaking, creative storytelling besides awareness about the environment and sustainable development. As many as 77 people from the state -- both from urban and rural areas including the far-flung Maoist-affected Bastar region -- and adjoining regions participated in the workshop at the Amity University in Raipur in collaboration with the US Consulate General Mumbai. The workshop had five technical sessions with experts sharing knowledge on cinema and how to be the change in society.

All eyes on Congress' much-awaited first list

If a hint given by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is to be believed, the much-awaited first list of Congress in Chhattisgarh will be announced on Sunday. The party insiders familiar with development said that for the 20 seats to be covered in the first phase of polling, the consensus was yet to be reached. Around 40 names are likely to be declared in the first list. According to sources, the party has cautiously finalised the names keeping the winnability the sole criteria but equally remaining watchful of any possible resentment between the sitting MLAs and others.

Polling booths will be easily accessible

The Bastar zone with 12 assembly seats during the upcoming elections on November 7 will have 126 new polling centres for locals to exercise their franchise under adequate security. The EC has been apprised by the Bastar administration about the presence of security base camps closer to these new polling booths. In the strife-torn south Chhattisgarh, several polling centres in the past were shifted from remote interior areas to safer locations. This resulted in low voter turnout. With easy accessibility of the booths, the representative democracy will be further strengthened as the polls can give the people a stronger voice.

Justice hurried is justice buried, says Maha Speaker on disqualification row

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

A day the Supreme Court rap over delay in deciding Shiv Sena MLAs' disqualification petitions, Maharashtra state assembly speaker Rahul Narvekar on Saturday said legislature, executive and judiciary are the three pillars of the democracy and each one has to respect each other and not supersede over any other right.

He said he will respect the Supreme Court's order but at the same time he will also ensure the sovereignty of the legislator is maintained.

Narvekar said he believes in democracy and procedure and right of all wings of Constitution. He, therefore, is not in a hurry to give the judgment over Shiv Sena MLAs' disqualification petitions. He said justice hurried is justice buried. As per natural justice, each side and MLAs should get the adequate time to present their face during disqualification hearing.

"I have got the copy from the Supreme Court and am seeking the legal opinion over it. Besides, nowhere in the order of the apex court, it has mentioned that the disqualification petitions should be disposed of within two months. Whatever is written in the order that will be followed. I do respect the judiciary," he clarified.

He said that he will not comment on what the Opposition is saying over his conduct as speaker of the state assembly. "We are here to follow and abide by the rules laid down by the constitutions. The legislator, executive and judiciary have an equal importance in democracy and no one should override each other. The balance should be maintained while passing any judgment or order. We have to respect each other," he said.

> The legislator, executive and judiciary have an equal importance in democracy and no one should override each other. We have to respect each other
>
> Rahul Narvekar, Maharashtra state assembly speaker

Chances of polls to 102 U'khand local bodies bleak

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN Uttarakhand, elections will not be held after the completion of the term of local bodies. Elections to 102 civic bodies in the state, which were scheduled to be held in November, have now become difficult.

Pre-election preparations are still incomplete. "The government will hand over the bodies to the administrators after their term ends on December 2," the sources said.

Political analysts believe that the local body 'election results' are likely to have an impact on the Lok Sabha elections, so the government is in no mood to take this 'risk' at the moment.

However, of the nine municipal corporations in the state, except Haridwar and Kotdwar, where the Congress has mayors, dehradun, Rishikesh, Roorkee, Haldwani, Kashipur, Rudrapur mayoral seats are held by the BJP.

The BJP has a majority in 39 municipalities, but despite this, the BJP high command is avoiding taking any kind of risk, that their results will not have a direct impact on the Lok Sabha elections.

Buzz on major rejig in Gujarat BJP as CM in Delhi for 2nd time this week

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ New Delhi

GUJARAT chief minister **Bhupendra Patel** and state BJP president **C R Paatil** have made two trips to Delhi this week, sparking speculation in political circles.

According to sources, the meeting was called to implement big changes in the Gujarat BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha election and to plan a poll strategy. PM Modi, home minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda and V Ratnakar, the party's general secretary in charge of Gujarat, among others, attended the meeting.

Sources said that Patel and PM Modi held a meeting on Friday to discuss the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat event and some other major projects. Amit Shah was also present in this discussion, after which PM called Gujarat BJP president C R Patil.

After meeting with the PM, Patil met BJP national president JP Nadda. According to sources, during the meeting of Gujarat leaders discussions were also held for a major overhaul in the organisation of the Gujarat BJP before the Lok Sabha election. There were discussions about the appointment of two vacant general secretary positions in Gujarat, as well as inducting new faces in crucial positions for the Lok Sabha campaign.

Delhi high command will make changes in the Gujarat BJP with the consent of both the state president and chief minister. There is also talk that Patil has recommended some names for the posts of two general secretaries.

Gujarat BJP organisation general secretary Ratnakar is still in Delhi, according to sources. He has been in Delhi for the previous four days and has visited top BJP leaders, and changes in the BJP organization will be revealed after his return to Gujarat.

Major projects discussed

Sources said that Patel and PM Modi held a meeting on Friday to discuss the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat event and some other major projects. Amit Shah was also present in this discussion, after which PM called Gujarat BJP president C R Patil.

Manipur to count migratory Amur falcons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

THE forest department of Manipur will carry out a census of Amur falcons.

The first of its kind exercise will be a part of the department's string of programmes to protect the migratory birds.

Thousands of these raptors roost in Nagaland's Wokha, Assam's Dima Hasao and Manipur's Tamenglong districts during their 22,000km long flight from their home turf in northern China and south-eastern Siberia to south and east African coasts.

A first batch of the small-sized birds, numbering around 20-30, arrived in Manipur's Tamenglong district on Friday. Locally known as 'Akhuaipuina', Amur falcons usually start arriving in mid-October. After roosting for over a month, they take wings for Africa and migrate over the Arabian Sea.

"We have engaged a prominent NGO from the state for conducting the census of Amur falcons on the spots (roosting sites). It will carry out the head count when the birds completely arrive in Tamenglong," Divisional Forest Officer Amandeep said.

The first batch of Amur falcons arrived in Manipur's Tamenglong district on Friday

Generally, the number of the birds varies from one roosting site to another, he said, adding that at some points, over 5,000 falcons roosted while more than 50,000 at other roosting sites. "Once the census is conducted, we will maintain a data on their arrival," he added.

The forest department and Rainforest Club Tamenglong (RCT) will jointly organise a series of programmes to inspire people to protect the winged guests and show their love to them. One of the events lined up is "Amur falcon dance festival" which will be held in November.

The district magistrates of Tamenglong and adjoining Noney issued orders, banning hunting, catching, killing and selling the birds. Till a decade ago, hunting of the birds was common in Nagaland but today the hunters became their protectors. Awareness spread by the government, NGOs and villagers changed people's attitude toward the birds.

The Amur falcon (Falco amurensis) is a small raptor of the falcon family. It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern and East African coasts. The Amur falcon was long considered a subspecies or morph of the red-footed falcon, but it is nowadays considered a distinct species.

After roosting, birds fly to Africa

The first batch of the small-sized birds, numbering around 20-30, arrived in Manipur's Tamenglong district on Friday. Locally known as 'Akhuaipuina', Amur falcons usually start arriving in mid-October. After roosting for over a month, they take wings for Africa and migrate over the Arabian Sea. Divisional Forest Officer Amandeep said that generally, the number of the birds varies from one roosting site to another, and that at some points, over 5,000 falcons roosted while more than 50,000 were seen at other roosting sites.

Eight villages in U'khand to get road connectivity for first time in 75 years

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

EIGHT villages of Pithoragarh, the border district of Uttarakhand, will be getting concrete roads for the first time since Independence. The inhabitants of these villages, located near the China border, were leading a difficult life due to the absence of proper roads.

The roads will be built under the central government's Vibrant Village Scheme, an official said. "The proposals for these roads sent to the central government, have received in-principle approval," Nitika Khandelwal, state coordinator of the Vibrant Village Scheme, told this paper.

According to the state rural development department, 10.01 km of road will be constructed in Tidang, Seepu and Marcha villages, 1.025 km in Rongaon, 6.40 km in Panchu Gunth (Ghanghar), 3.325 km in Tola, 23.20 km in Khimling.

Besides, Hira Ghumari village, which falls under the forest limits, has been requested by Indo Tibetan Border Police for the road construction, sources said. "So far, 510 schemes worth Rs 758 crore have been approved by the chief secretary," sources said.

Moreover, Uttarakhand Rural Development and Migration Prevention Commission has initiated working on a comprehensive plan to promote border tourism in the state.

Speaking to this paper, commission's vice-chairman S S Negi said, "Due to the schemes of the government and increase in awareness and encouragement at various levels, there have been about seven per cent reverse migration in the last five years".

"The border districts were grappling with the mass exodus of people due to hostile living conditions, poor infrastructure and lack of essential facilities like health care and education," Negi said

"The upliftment of border infrastructure will reverse the migration, and facilitate better mobility of troops and machinery ", he added.

According to the census of 2011, over 185 villages in the three border districts of Uttarakhand had zero population. These villages by locals are addressed as "ghost villages".

Last-mile connectivity

According to the state rural development department, 10.01 km of road will be constructed in Tidang, Seepu and Marcha villages, 1.025 km in Rongaon, 6.40 km in Panchu Gunth (Ghanghar), 3.325 km in Tola.

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	16	SNY	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	25	12	HR
Dhaka	32	27	SNY	Moscow	21	8	HR
Dubai	39	31	SNY	New York	26	16	LC
Houston	31	23	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	17	SNY	Toronto	19	11	LC
London	24	13	LC	Washington	27	14	SNY

TACIT U.S. APPROVAL SEEN FOR ISRAELI GROUND ASSAULT

Hamas' social media video posted on Sept 12 showing fighters blasting the border fence and the subsequent incursion surprisingly ignored by Israeli intelligence

RIYADH

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Saturday for protecting civilians in the Gaza Strip in what was seen as a tacit approval for the Israeli ground assault. An Israeli ground assault would worsen the plight of civilians in Gaza who are without power, fresh water or access to aid. Israel has called up some 3,60,000 military reserves and massed troops and tanks along the border with Gaza. A ground assault in Gaza would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides.

Blinken also called Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to seek his country's help in preventing the war from spreading, asking Beijing to use whatever influence it has in the Mideast. He called his Chinese counterpart as Palestinians struggled to flee from areas of Gaza targeted by the Israeli military before an expected land offensive. Blinken's spokesman declined to characterise Wang's response but said the US believes China have a shared interest in region's stability.

Blinken met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan as America's top diplomat held a third day of talks across the Mideast aimed at preventing the Israel-Hamas war from expanding into a regional conflict. Both officials stressed the importance of minimising the harm to civilians as Israel prepared for an anticipated incursion against Hamas. "As Israel pursues its legitimate right, to defending its people and to trying to ensure that this never happens again, it is vitally important that all of us look out for civilians, and we're working together to do exactly that," Blinken said before heading to UAE for further discussions.

"None of us want to see suffering by civilians on any side, whether it's in Israel, whether it's in Gaza, whether it's anywhere else," Blinken said.

The Saudi minister said the kingdom was committed to the protection of civilians. "It's a disturbing situation," he said. "It's a very difficult situation. And, as you know, the primary sufferers of this situation are civilians, and civilian populations on both sides are being affected and it's important, I think, that we all condemn the targeting of civilians in any form at any time by anyone."

A US official said on Saturday that Washington did not ask Israel to slow or hold off on the evacuation plan. The official said the discussions with Israeli leaders did stress the importance of taking into account the safety of civilians as Israel's military moved to enforce the evacuation demand.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli leaders acknowledged the guidance and took it under advisement. After his meeting, Blinken plans to return to Saudi Arabia and then to travel on Sunday to Egypt.

He has already visited Israel, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain on his mission to show US support for Israel as it prepares for the expected incursion into Gaza, but has also affirmed the importance of maintaining humanitarian aid in Gaza and preventing civilian casualties, in part by creating safe zones inside Gaza. *AP*

DAYS' DEVELOPMENTS

These guys make al-Qaeda look pure: Biden

President Joe Biden has said Hamas is worse than al-Qaeda, the terrorist group behind the 9/11 attacks. "These guys make al-Qaeda look pure. They're pure evil. Like I said from the beginning, the US, make no mistake about it, stands with Israel...," he said.

US okays departures of non-emergency govt staff

The US State Department on Saturday authorised the departure of non-emergency United States government personnel and their family members from the American Embassy in Jerusalem and an office in Tel Aviv.

Reuters videographer Abdallah laid to rest

Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah who was killed in Israeli shelling of southern Lebanon, was laid to rest in his hometown on Saturday. Draped in a Lebanese flag, Abdallah's body was carried on a stretcher through the streets of his southern town of Khiam.

Hamas rehearsed before border breach

AL-MAWASI

LESS than a month before Hamas fighters blew through Israel's high-tech "Iron Wall" and launched an attack that would leave more than 1,300 Israelis dead, they practiced in a very public dress rehearsal.

A slickly produced two-minute propaganda video posted to social media by Hamas on September 12 shows fighters using explosives to blast through a replica of the border gate, sweep in on pickup trucks and then move building by building through a full-scale reconstruction of an Israeli town, firing automatic weapons at human-silhouetted paper targets.

The Islamic militant group's live-fire exercise dubbed operation "Strong Pillar" also had militants in body armour and combat fatigues carrying out operations that included the destruction of mock-ups of the wall's concrete towers and a communications antenna, just as they would do for real in the deadly attack last Saturday.

The *Associated Press* reviewed more than 100 videos Hamas released over the last year, primarily through the social media app Telegram. Using satellite imagery, the *AP* was able to verify key details, as well as identify five sites Hamas used to practice shooting and blowing holes in Israel's border defences. The *Associated Press* matched the location of the mocked-up settlement from the September 12 video to a patch of desert outside Al-Mawasi, a Palestinian town on the southern coast of the Gaza Strip. A large sign in Hebrew and Arabic at the gate says "Horesh Yaron," the name of a controversial Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. *AP*

Rising tensions in the occupied West Bank amid violence

JERUSALEM

WHILE the world is focused on the war in Gaza, tensions have risen in the occupied West Bank, where 54 Palestinians were killed over the past week in clashes with Israeli troops, arrest raids and attacks by Jewish settlers. UN monitors said it was the deadliest week for Palestinians in the territory since 2005.

Israeli forces have held the West Bank under a tight grip, closing crossings into the territory and checkpoints between cities, measures they say are aimed at preventing attacks.

Friday was a particularly deadly day, with 16 Palestinians killed in different incidents in the West Bank.

The renewed crackdown comes as Israel is concerned about the conflict escalating into a multi-front war, particularly the possibility of Lebanon's Hezbollah militia also joining the battle.

But Palestinians say the latest Israeli measures in the West Bank have further blurred the line between security forces and radical settlers. Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, responded to the Hamas attack by distributing more weapons to the already well-armed settler population.

Two days earlier, settlers shot dead three Palestinians in Qusra, near northern West Bank city of Nablus. On Thursday, settlers attacked their funeral, killing another two men, as per Palestinian Health Ministry. Video footage showed the settlers swerving their cars into the funeral procession before stopping and opening fire.

On Thursday, settlers arrived at Wadi Seeq, a small Bedouin village in the central West Bank, as Palestinians there packed up their belongings. They had already moved all of the women, children and livestock to a safer area in recent days because of rising threats, a resident of the village said. Witnesses said that the settlers opened fire, wounding three Palestinians and driving the rest out of the village.

Abdelrahman Kaabni, the head of the Wadi Seeq village council, said that soldiers and police had taken part in the attack, beating and arresting residents. As the villagers of Wadi Seeq fled settler violence, they left behind cisterns, livestock, solar panels and two vehicles. "The settlers took everything, and now they're squatting in our homes," Kaabni said.

Most of the attacks come from settler outposts established without government authorisation but protected by the Israeli army. *AP*

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai, Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-8-2023-24 Dt:13.10.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India the Dy Chief Electrical Engineer/ General/ Construction/Southern Railway/ Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of work: New Railway Hospital - Southern Railway - Perambur - Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Centralized Air-Conditioning system for patients waiting area in OPD Block.

1 Period of completion	6 months
2 Approximate cost of work	Rs.1,39,44,872.49
3 Cost of tender form	Nil
4 Earnest Money deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,19,700.00
5 Tender closing date & time	06.11.2023 at 11.00 AM
6 Tender Opening date & time	06.11.2023 at 11.30 AM

Complete details can be seen **www.ireps.gov.in.**

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UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5
Phone :+ 91-836-2214214/332
E mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com eo@uasd.in

No.EO/MAB UASD.T C Lab/2023-24 Date: 12.10.2023

"E-TENDER NOTIFICATION"(II nd CALL)

Tender has been re-invited from registered agencies / service providers, for "Outsourcing of Tissue culture lab along with existing equipments for utilization of lab and equipments on monthly rental basis at second floor of Main Administrative building , UAS Dharwad". The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** For more details please contact 0836-2214214 / 332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact ph. No: 080-23010900

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1)	Last Date & Time for queries.	18.10.2023	Upto	16.00 Hrs
2)	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	20.10.2023	Upto	16.00 Hrs
3)	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bids.	21.10.2023	@	16.15 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process.

DIPR/DWD/385/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY **Sd/- Estate Officer**

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 03 BMB 2023 Date: 12.10.2023

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 1000 Crore (Rs. 1000 Crore (9 Year Tenure))
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : October 17, 2023

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/1675/KSMCA/2023-24

Your Guide to Spicy Living
INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam.-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2023_KMML_608968_1	For the supply of Plate Inconel 600-3mm thick -310 kg
2.	2023_KMML_611338_1	For fabrication & supply of Water Cooled Condenser E206A
3.	2023_KMML_611340_1	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
4.	2023_KMML_608074_1	For local clearance transportation of goods from Kollam to the KMML,TP Unit,Chavara,Kollam
5.	2023_KMML_612437_1	For supply of 1088 MT of Aluminium Trihydrate
6.	2023_KMML_608103_1	Supplying of materials,construction and commissioning of two numbers of deep tube well of 230 meter approximate depth using UPVC pipes at the designated sites(TP unit, KMML), which gives a minimum yield of 40M 3 /hour of raw water.
7.	2023_KMML_608105_1	Overhauling and revamping of the cooling tower cells in our premises of TP Unit at the Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit
8.	2023_KMML_611634_1	U 300 Strengthening work

Chavara. 13.10.2023 **Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients have negotiated for the purchase of the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner **Mr. CHARAN KUMAR. R,** Son of Rajappa.M, residing at E-686/789, Sadhara Street, near Basavanakatte, Jagajeevanram Nagar, Attibele, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore: 562107.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien and interest in respect of the Schedule property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned with documentary evidence in support thereof within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Commercially converted Immovable property bearing Panchayathi Katha No. 150200100200124374, carved out of Survey No. 347/3 (Earlier forming portion of Survey No. 347), measuring 1922.25 Square Meters in extent, situated at **Bideraguppe Village**, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the :

EAST BY : Anekal Sarjapura Main Road;
WEST BY : Property belonging to Sriram Apartment in Sy. No. 346;
NORTH BY : Remaining portion of land measuring 10 guntas in Sy.No. 347/2;
SOUTH BY : Passage leading to Sriram Apartment;

T.K. GOWHAR BASSHA, Advocate
S.A. KHAYUM ASSOCIATES, No. 65, Wellington Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560 025. Mobile : 98452 15566.

Bangalore Dated : 15.10.2023

KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY
Vishwavidyalaya Karyalaya, Kuvempu Centenary Building, Jnanasahyadri, Shankaraghatta - 577 451. Shivamogga Dist. Karnataka.
Ph : 08282 256149, Fax : 08282 256262
Notification Ref. No.KU:AC-4/ 3028 /2023-24, Date : 12.10.2023

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR POST GRADUATE COURSES/ POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA/ CERTIFICATE COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to Post-graduate Courses/ Post-graduate Diploma / Certificate Courses at different Post Graduate Departments, PG Centers at Kadur / Chikkamagaluru, Constituent and Affiliated Colleges of Kuvempu University through UUCMS Portal https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index for the Academic Year 2023-24. Last Date for submission of Applications is : 05-11-2023.

For more details regarding above admission and E-Prospectus are hosted in University website:www.kuvempu.ac.in

DIPR/SMG/No.85-10/zenkar/2023-24 **Sd/- Registrar**

HASSAN CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED
P.B. NO. 120, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, B.M.ROAD, HASSAN 5 73201
PH NO : 08172-240631 FAX: 08172-240640
E-mail address: hamul77@yahoo.co.in

NO/HCMU/GM(T)/M(ENG)/E-PROC/3536/2023-24 DATE:10.10.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER(IFT)(RE-CALL)
(Short Term Tender)
(Two cover system through e-procurement portal only)

HAMUL invites E-Procurement tender for 1) Operation and Maintenance of Effluent Treatment Plant at Hassan Dairy. 2) Quantity & EMD amount :as per bid notification available in e-portal,3) Last Date for Submission of tender:30.10.2023, up to 05.00 PM, 4) Technical bid Opening: 02.11.2023 at 03.00 PM, 5) Address for Communication: General Manager(T)at the above address.6) Further details and Tender Document may be downloaded from website https://kppuat.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
E-Tender Notice No. 08-DCE-CN-SA-2023 (OT) Dated 13.10.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Salem- 636 005 invites e-tender for the following work as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the work: Proposed new BG line between Chinnasalem and Kallakkurichi - Proposed construction of EI Hut building at Chinnasalem.

Cash Value in Rupees	₹ 37,43,060.05
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	₹ 74,900.00
Period of completion in month(s)	TWO
Closing Date 15.00 hrs	06.11.2023

For further details refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Salem - 636 005

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai, Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-7-2023-24 Dt:12.10.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India the Dy Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/ S. Rly/ Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of work: Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of HT 11kV, 3 Core 120 Sq.mm UG Cable betweenAdambakkam and St.Thomas Mount stations, Provision of LED Signage Board. Improvements to LED Lighting arrangements and Residual works in Velachery - St.Thomas Mount section under MRTS PH-II Extension.

1 Period of completion	Nine months
2 Approximate cost of work	Rs.3,08,47,319.96
3 Cost of tender form	Nil
4 Earnest Money deposited	Rs. 3,04,200/-
5 Tender closing date	03.11.2023

Complete details can be seen **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client intends to acquire the properties detailed in the table below, situated in Byranahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District (hereinafter collectively referred as "Schedule Property" for the sake of brevity) from its owners, **Mr. THIMMAPPAYYA @ THIMMAPPA, Mr. B T Srinivasamurthy, Mrs. Pavitra, Miss Sahana, Master Yoganarasimha and Mrs. Siddagangamma,** all residing at Byranahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk 561123. Any person/s having any manner of right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property, may file their objections, with documentary proof, to the undersigned, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the said period, it shall be deemed that none else have any right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property, and our Client will proceed to complete the proposed transaction of purchase, proceeding on the basis that the abovementioned persons are the absolute owner of the Schedule Property.

S. No	Sy No	Extent		Boundaries			
		In Acres	In Guntas	East By	West By	North By	South By
01	109/1	-	33	Lake	Sy No : 109/2	Water Channel	Sy No : 112/5
02	112/1	1	21	Sy No : 113/7	Sy No : 112/4	Sy No : 112/5	Balance of Sy No.112/1
03	112/5	1	00	Sy No : 113/8	Sy No : 112/4	Sy No : 109/1	Sy No : 112/1

I.S. Devaiah
Partner, **MD&T Partners**
No. 80, 1st Floor, 6th Main, 16th Cross, Gayatri Devi Park, Vyalikaval Extension, Bengaluru - 560 003.
Tel: +91 80 2346 6529

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 14.10.2023

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया **Bank of India** BOI
YELAHANKA BRANCH
No.2015, HIG Housing Board Colony, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064

GOLD JEWEL PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The following Borrower have availed jewel loan and failed to redeem the same within the stipulated time inspite of repeated notices. If they fail to redeem the pledged jewels, the same will be sold in public on **27.10.2023** at **11.30 AM** in Branch Premises. The public notice is also to borrower and applies to the legal heirs of the deceased borrower if any. A copy of this notice is sent by registered post AD to redeem the gold within the period.

Sl No.	Account No.	Borrower Name and Address	Net Weight	Out Standing Balance
1	84777761 0000596	**Ms. Bindu George ,** No.52, 53 Krupa Nilayam, 2nd Cross, BDS Layout , Hegde Nagar, Bangalore-560077	**77.20 gms**	**Rs.3,30,000.00** + uncharged interest from 23-05-2022

Those willing to participation in public auction have to pay 10% of the reserve price so fixed as EMD on or before **25.10.2023.** EMD will be Refundable to the unsuccessful bidders. Successful bidders have to pay the bid amount in cash on the spot. Branch Manager reserve the right to cancel/postpone the Auction or any part of the auction without any notice / assigning any reason.

Date : 12.10.2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Bank of India

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.23,67,744/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Four only)** as on **11-10-2023** together with further interest to be charged from **12-10-2023** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Shahi Saw Mill, Sha Abdul Haneef, Shahi Circle, Sathanoor Road, Chennapatna - 562160. No.2) Mr. Sha Abdul Haneef, S/o. Shah Mohammed Azeez, No.1580A, Sathanoor Road, Shahi Rice Mill Circle, Chennapatna - 562160. No.3) Mrs. Nagma Begum, W/o. Shah Abdul Haneef, No.1580A, Sathanoor Road, Shahi Rice Mill Circle, Chennapatna - 562160.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Sha Abdul Haneef, S/o. Shah Mohammed Azeez)

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.66/60, Property No. 21-1-516-74 measuring : East to West 11.58 metres and North to South 25.91 metres situated at Ward No.21, C.K.Road, 1st Cross, 1st Block, Chennapatna, bounded on the East by : Property No.21-1-516-76A, West by : Property No.21-1-516-72, North by : Road, South by : Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.40,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
07-11-2023	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch,** B.M.Road,316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No. 9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road,316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road,Ramanagara - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No. 9379511195. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **02.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking andlocal bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bidsor postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 13-10-2023 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

19.42 LAKH new subscribers the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added in August, according to provisional payroll data

Religare management has approached SEBI as there is dissatisfaction over the valuation

Burmans' takeover bid faces resistance from REL mgmnt

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

ALL may not go well for the Burmans of FMCG major Dabur, who are looking to acquire a majority stake in financial firm Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL).

After the Burmans in late September announced via a brokerage firm that an open offer is triggered as their shareholding has surpassed the 25% mark, it is learnt that the current management of Religare has approached the market regulator SEBI as there is dissatisfaction over the valuation of the company and share price offered under the open offer.

A source aware of the development said that it is highly probable that the present takeover of REL has been carefully planned by the Burman Group.

"The Burman Group acquired about 7.5% of REL shares in August 2023 to trigger an open offer. It is believed that the Burman Group has persuaded various persons to purchase shares of REL, then sell the shares after the public announcement of open offer on September 25, and later purchase at the proposed open offer price of ₹235. This was done in order to ensure that the value of the scrip, which was ₹271.55 per share on September 22, drops consistently to the proposed offer value ₹235 per share," the source said. REL shares had hit a 52-week high of ₹280.30 on September 21.

This, according to the source, needs to be examined if everything is under the guidelines as it is also against small shareholders' interests. The source added REL may approach other avenues such as the exchanges and the RBI.

"In general, the share price of an acquiring company goes up after a small correction. In few instances there is not even a correction as shareholders see a value in the stock and remain invested. However, in the case of REL, after the public announcement, the shares have been a continuing downward movement," the source said.

Owing to this downtrend, the market capitalisation of REL has come down to ₹7,723 crore on October 13 from ₹8,796 crore on September 24.

Eyeing to increase its presence in the financial space, the Burman family of Dabur on September 25 announced acquiring a majority stake in the diversified financial services group Religare Enterprises. If successful, the Burmans will have a controlling stake in a $1 billion valued company which competes directly with Bajaj Finance and Mukesh Ambani's Jio Financial Services. Four Burman family companies have made an open offer to acquire a 26% additional stake in Religare for ₹2,116 crore. In an exchange filing made on Monday morning, Dabur has put forward its intention to acquire up to 90,042,541 shares at ₹235 each, a steep discount from September 22 market price.

Shriram Subramanian, founder of proxy advisory firm InGovern, says there is nothing wrong with Burmans wanting to take over the company. "As such the management seems to be differing on the valuation, but that is for minority investors to decide whether to tender or not. Management doesn't want a dominant shareholder and that is one reason they are opposing an incoming shareholder," says Subramanian

Amidst this takeover buzz, Ventura Securities last week initiated coverage on REL shares with a buy call and a target price of ₹471, indicating an upside of over 100% from its current market price of ₹235-240.

REL SHARE PRICE
300
250
200
OPEN OFFER ANNOUNCED ON SEPT 25
01 SEP 23
08 SEP 23
15 SEP 23
22 SEP 23
29 SEP 23
06 OCT 23
13 OCT 23
HOSTILE
takeover bid
Burman Group acquired about
7.5%
OF REL SHARES IN AUGUST 2023 TO TRIGGER AN OPEN OFFER
Mohit Burman
Chairman of Dabur India
Dr. Rashmi Saluja
Exec Chairman, Religare
Four Burman family companies have made an open offer to acquire a 26% additional stake in Religare for ₹2,116 crore
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Ventura noted that REL is firing on all fronts and is poised for robust financial growth and valuation re-rating in the near future. It added that REL's health insurance arm has industry-leading margins and strong operating metrics, while its affordable housing finance and SME lending divisions are embarking on a new growth phase.

"Over the period of FY23-26E, we are expecting REL's consolidated revenues to grow at a CAGR of 20.1% to ₹8,096 crore, which would be primarily driven by 35.7% Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) growth in RFL's revenue to ₹305 cr due the expected rise in its SME loan book from Rs 711 crore in FY23 to ₹2,500 crore by FY26," said Ventura.

It also believes that the company would do better under the strong and proven management of Burmans.

NEWSCOPE

REMINDER FROM GAZA, IT IS A MILITARIZED WORLD ORDER

GURBIR SINGH

IT is a war out of the blue. The failure of the famed Israeli surveillance machinery to detect the scale of the Hamas attack; and now the overwhelming return fire from Tel Aviv has the world reeling. Israel is looking for revenge. There is a huge humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip. Palestinian casualties from starvation; and lack of medical aid will be higher than those killed from bombs and guns.

Both sides are counting their dead. There is a hostage crisis; and the blockade and bombing is flattening what is left of the Gaza stip. The world is on edge as a new war zone threatens to envelop the region. Quite suddenly the focus has shifted from Russia's Ukraine war. The new Gaza outbreak is an unfortunate reminder that the world is at a new nadir since World War II.

A recent survey by wisevoter.com showed 32 countries across the globe at war with another, or in a state of armed conflict internally with civil wars, and ethnic conflict. The collective human and economic costs are mind-boggling. Militarization is on the rise and the international language has become more divisive, more aggressive.

Growing conflict zones

Sample the costs: The Ukraine war has left nearly 500,000 troops either dead or injured, according to the New York Times. As many as 120,000 Russian troops have been killed and 180,000 injured, with Ukraine's military toll at 70,000 killed and up to 20,000 wounded. The incessant missile attacks on Ukraine have turned over 6 million of the country's 41 million people into refugees across Europe. The war has created a slump that has wiped out $1.6 trillion off the international economy, a study by the German Institute of Economic Affairs has estimated.

Let's take a peek into some of the other conflict zones that don't hog the headlines. Christian Armenia and Islamic Azerbaijan in the south Caucasus have been at war over territory and ethnic issues for over two decades. More than 7,000 soldiers have been killed on either side since the new conflagration broke out in 2020. At the centreof the dispute has been the ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. In the most recent hostilities, Azerbaijan got the military upper hand and almost the entire 150,000 Armenians have fled to Armenia creating a huge refugee crisis.

One of 2022's deadliest wars has been fought in Ethiopia between the breakaway region's Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Hostilities started in 2020, with the advantage shifting back and forth; but if there is a region that has seen death and destruction of

SOURAV ROY

civilians, and sexual violence of horrendous proportions, it is Tigray. Researchers in Belgium's Ghent University estimate that 385,000 to 600,000 civilians had died of war-related causes as of August 2022.

Interstate wars are of different intensities. There are the simmering kinds that run through decades with occasional outbreak of hostilities like our wars with Pakistan since 1947, and hostilities over the undefined sections of India's long 3,500 km border with China since 1962.

But what has become more prominent in recent years is intense civil wars, especially in many African countries where large chunks of the country as in Nigeria, Central African Republic and Niger have been taken hold by Islamic factions or ethnic groups. In Asia, ultra nationalism as a panacea to economic distress has triggered its own aggressive militarism. China under Premier Xi Jinping is pushing for a forced merger of Taiwan with China, and the Myanmar military junta has been evicting non-Buddhist minorities like the Muslim Rohingyas.

The war industry

While economies and lives waste away, the symbiotic relationship between the growing militarisation and the improving health of the corporate arms manufacturers is difficult to miss. Sales of arms and military services by the world's 100 biggest defence companies has risen consecutively for 7 years. Despite the Covid pandemic and supply chain issues that have held up shipment of critical components, calendar 2021 saw a rise of 1.9% in arms sales touching a humungous $592 billion, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

It's not difficult to track where the money is going: Of the top 8 arms manufacturers, 5 are US corporates. Their 2021 sales figures: Lockheed Martin ($61 billion), Raytheon ($41 bn), Boeing ($33 bn), Northrop Grumman ($30 bn) and General Dynamics ($26 bn).

The Watson Institute, Brown University, US has computed the possible cost of US' failed intervention since9/11 in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc – countries that faced the backlash of the New York bombings in 2001.Direct deaths: 905,000-940,000;indirect deaths in the war zones: 3.6-3.8 million; People displaced: 38 million;US' budgetary costs: $8 trillion which includes 'counter-terrorism' operations in 85 countries.

As we write this, the Israel army has massed tanks on the Gaza border and ordered 1.1 million Palestinians in the North to move South in 24 hours. This will create a ghetto of refugees easier to administer, Israel hopes, in a 140 km strip, already the most dense pocket of humanity anywhere in the world. Doesn't look like peace has a scrap of a chance.

D-Mart Q2 net profit falls 9% to ₹623.35 cr, sales up 18.7%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AVENUE SUPERMARTS LTD, which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a 9.09% decline in consolidated net profit at ₹623.35 crore for the second quarter ending September 30.

Profit fell as contribution from general merchandise and apparel business impacted gross margins. It had reported a net profit of ₹685.71 crore in the Q2 quarter in the previous financial year, said Avenue Supermarts in a regulatory filing. However, its revenue from operations rose 18.66% to ₹12,624.37 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹10,638.33 crore in the corresponding quarter last financial year.

Total expenses in Q2FY24 were at ₹11,809.35 crore, up 18.97%. Total income of Avenue Supermarts in the quarter was at ₹12,661.29 crore, a rise of 18.61%. For the first half of this financial year, its revenue from operations was at ₹24,489.81 crore and its net profit was at ₹1,282.06 crore.

"Profit-after-tax (PAT) margin stood at 5.2% in the first half (H1) of FY24, as against 6.4% in H1FY23," it said. Avenue Supermarts CEO & MD Neville Noronha said: "Q2 FY2024 saw revenue growth of 18.5% as against the corresponding quarter of last year." "Our gross margins continue to be lower compared to the same period in the previous year, due to lesser contribution from higher margin general merchandise and apparel business."

During the June quarter, D-Mart opened nine new stores taking the total count to 336. D-Mart operates across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, NCR, Chhattisgarh and Punjab.

EXPRESS READ

FM pitches for strong, quota-based IMF

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday made a case for a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the centre of the global financial safety net and climate action on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) is expected to provide a greater say to developing economies in the IMF. *PTI*

Air India suspends flights to Tel Aviv

NEW DELHI: Air India has extended suspension of its scheduled flights to and from Tel Aviv till October 18, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and militant group Hamas. The full service carrier, which operates five weekly scheduled flights to Tel Aviv, had earlier suspended services till October 14. An airline official on Saturday said scheduled flights to and from Tel Aviv have now been suspended till October 18. *PTI*

Business & Beyond

REC Limited conferred with the 'Best Central PSU' Award in in the financial services category

Gurugram: REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has been conferred with the 'Best Central PSU' in the Financial Services category at the Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2023. The award was received by Executive Director, Shri T S C Bosh on behalf of REC Limited. REC continues to strive towards business excellence while adding another feather in its cap. REC Limited is one of the largest NBFC in the country with lending operations across the power sector value chain and a renewed thrust towards Non-Power Infrastructure and logistics space. In Q1 FY24 the Loan Book of the company stood at INR 4.54 Lakh Crore and the Net Worth rose to INR 60,886 Crore. The company aims to increase its exposure in the Renewable Energy space by 10 folds by 2030. The company has diversified into the Non-Power Infrastructure and Logistics sector recently and has already crossed the milestone of INR 1 Lakh Crore in terms of Loan Sanctions. REC understands the importance of the infrastructure sector in building a developed nation by the end of Amrit Kaal and is steadfast in its commitment to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of India.

Promising PR Person of the Year Award presented to Nikhil Mukund Wagh, SM (PR) GSL

Nikhil Mukund Wagh, PRO, Goa Shipyard Limited honoured with PRCI "Promising PR Person of the Year" Award during the Chanakya Award Ceremony at Public Relation Council of India's 17th Global Communication Conclave: "Building Trust Digitally" at New Delhi yesterday. Shri Jual Oram, MP and Chairman, of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Shri Vinod Zutshi, Former Secretary of Tourism, presented the award in the presence of Shri M.B. Jayaram, PRCI Chief Mentor and Chairman Emeritus, Ms Geetha Shankar , National President, PRCI , and Dr T Vinay Kumar , Secretary , GC , PRCI , Shri Rajesh Sahgal , Conclave Chairman, PRCI and a large number of Public Relations , Corporate Communication and Media Professionals.

Leyaqat Ali Aafaqui takes charge asCEO of Haj Committee of India in Haj House, Mumbai

Today 9th October, 2023, Shri Leyaqat Ali Aafaqui has taken charge as Chief Executive Officer, Haj Committee of India in Haj House, Mumbai. Mr.Aafaqui, who is working as Director in Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi has been given the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of Haj Committee of India and he had assumed the charge on 29.09.2023 from Delhi. Today it was his first visit to the office of Haj Committee of India after availing one week's leave.On his arrival, he was given a warm welcome in Haj House by all the Officers and staff of Haj Committee of India. After taking the charge as CEO, he held the introductory meeting with Officers &staff and took stock of the Haj 2023 and discussed Haj Action plan for Haj 2024. He asked the officers and staff at Haj House to give their best in facilitating for smooth & hassle free Haj and issued instructions to expedite the planning for smooth conduct of ensuing Haj-2024.

Sunil Namdeo Suryawanshi takes charge as Director (Projects), MSETCL

Sunil Namdeo Suryawanshi has been given charge of Director (Projects), MSETCL w.e.f. 10.10.2023. Shri Suryawanshi has studied Electrical Engineering from Pune University. He joined erstwhile MSEB (MSETCL) as Junior Engineer in 1994. Thereafter he was selected as Executive Engineer in 2006 by Direct Recruitment & as Superintending Engineer in 2013 & Chief Engineer in 2022. His work exposure includes Projects, O&M, Testing, ERP, R & C Cell, CMD Office etc.

Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty assumes charge as Director (Finance) of IREDA

New Delhi: Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, a distinguished senior finance professional with an illustrious career spanning over 25 years in the Indian power sector, has taken charge as the Director (Finance) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) effective from 12th October, 2023. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment on 7th October 2023 marks a significant addition to IREDA's leadership team.

Williamson ruled out of NZ's next 3 games

Skipper Kane Williamson was on Saturday ruled out of New Zealand's next three World Cup matches, including the India game, at the least after fracturing his thumb while running between the wickets against Bangladesh in Chennai. The game against Bangladesh on Friday was Williamson's first international outing in more than six months. He retired hurt after a well-made 78.

Every team in this tournament poses different threats, you just got to be adaptable to combat that. They (Afghanistan) obviously have got some world-class players.

—Joe Root, England batter

Kuldeep Yadav (C) celebrates after taking a wicket on Saturday | AP

8-0 India's H2H over Pakistan in 50-over World Cups

3 India and New Zealand are the only two sides to have a 100 per cent record, winning three matches each

11 Rohit has now hit 11 sixes across his last two matches (five against Afghanistan and six versus Pakistan)

2 This is only the second instance of five Indian bowlers taking two wickets each in a World Cup innings (their other occasion also came against Pakistan at Mohali)

PERFECT WC SHOW: INDIA 8-0 PAKISTAN

Hosts maintain dominance in quadrennial event with handsome win

GOMESH S @ Ahmedabad

KULDEEP Yadav had already bowled six overs on the trot in his spell. A lone first over just after the power play — it was clear that the pitch wasn't going to aid him that much — notwithstanding India captain Rohit Sharma had used the wrist spinner to hold one end.

At that point (after 32 overs), Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan had ensured that the sea of blue, with close to 1 lakh fans rooting against them, had stayed quiet. The duo had added 82 runs for the third wicket, and Azam had already got to his fifty before getting out to Mohammed Siraj. Saud Shakeel had just joined Rizwan by the time the second drink break came up.

The packed partisan crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad was getting behind the Men in Blue. Pakistan were 162/3 and in came Kuldeep for his seventh over of the spell, eighth overall. Through the spell, Kuldeep had varied his pace and length, keeping the batters quiet and even almost got Azam out. He hadn't taken any wicket but had played a significant role in ensuring Pakistan weren't running away with the game. You could sense that he could get one anytime.

The first ball of the 33rd over was a googly outside off which was hit by Shakeel to extra cover. The second one, Shakeel stayed on backfoot and defended. The ball skidded on and trapped the pads. The umpire didn't give it, but India reviewed and the three reds went off, bringing Iftikhar Ahmed to the middle. A leg break, a short-ball that was hit for four. another leg break that beat the bat later, he struck again. This time it was a googly outside leg-stump, that hit Ahmed's gloves and rolled onto the stumps. In a span of six balls, Kuldeep had turned the game on its head.

WHERE THEY STAND...

Team	MP	W	Pts	Net run rate
India	3	3	6	+1.82
New Zealand	3	3	6	+1.60
South Africa	2	2	4	+2.36
Pakistan	3	2	4	-0.13
England	2	1	2	+0.55
Bangladesh	3	1	2	-0.69
Sri Lanka	2	0	0	-1.1
Netherlands	2	0	0	-1.8
Australia	2	0	0	-1.84
Afghanistan	2	0	0	-1.9

Brief scores: Pakistan 191 in 42.5 ovs (Babar 50, Rizwan 49, Imam 36; Bumrah 2/19, Hardik 2/34, Kuldeep 2/35, Jadeja 2/38) **lost to** India 192/3 in 30.3 ovs (Rohit 86, Shreyas 53 n.o).

Sharma sensed an opportunity. He brought back his strike bowler — Jasprit Bumrah. Bumrah came on for his second spell and kept attacking the length outside off-stump. When he strayed to the stumps, Rizwan took a single before coming back on strike for the final delivery of the 34th over. He had been struggling to keep going after entering the 40s. He had been searching for his fifty.

Bumrah, in his element, did what he does best. He delivered a slow off-cutter, almost similar to what Zaheer Khan did to Michael Hussey in the 2011 World Cup, the ball went between the bat and pad and clipped the bails. Rizwan had to take the long walk back at 49. It was a bonafide Bumrah special. He did it in MCG 2018, and Lord's 2021, but Ahmedabad 2023 was different. The entire stadium roared in such a way that you could have heard it in Goyal Intercity society — where he grew up. Eight balls later, Bumrah did one better. He bowled the perfect delivery — a length ball pitching on middle-stump, straightened enough to take the off-stump — to send Shadab Khan back to the dressing room. In a span of 20 deliveries, Pakistan had slumped from 162/3 to 171/7.

From there on, there was no looking back as they crumbled to 191 all out in 42.5 overs. Bumrah finished with 2/19 while Kuldeep took 2/35. "I was bowling very well. Rizwan didn't sweep me a lot so I wanted to make him play the bad shot. I've been watching Saud Shakeel the last couple of games and he'd been trying to sweep a lot. He thought that ball was slow but it skidded on," Kuldeep told broadcasters after the first innings.

Ever since Sharma took over as captain, both Kuldeep and Bumrah have been the talking points. The former for the backing the captain is giving and his rhythm, and the latter for his injury and comeback.

Sharma did the rest during the chase, taking Pakistan bowlers to cleaners in the first ten overs. Picking up from where he left in New Delhi, he smashed 86 runs in 63 balls as India beat Pakistan by seven wickets.

DID YOU KNOW? WORLD CUP TRIVIA

While there are quite a few father-son duos to represent their countries (same) in World Cups, the Curran family is unique – where the father and two of his sons have represented two different countries in different World Cups. The father Kevin Curran played for Zimbabwe in the 1983 and 1987 World Cups; while his sons Tom Curran was part of the England squad in the 2019 World Cup and his other son Sam Curran is part of the 2023 England World Cup squad.

Sea of blue & some music turn match into carnival

GOMESH S @ Ahmedabad

INDIA versus Pakistan is always going to be bigger than just a cricket game. If the past history and the rivalry was not enough, the build up said it all. The gates of the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad were opened as early as 10 AM — most venues opened at 12 noon — for a 2 PM start.

The sea of blue that was always anticipated were there even before that. The visual from the drones, giving a bird's eye view, looked like a colony of blue ants moving in sync towards their habitat -- here the habitat is orange and blue stands of the colosseum named after the Prime Minister of the country.

They had a concert on their cards with top artists set to perform an hour before the toss and they did not want to miss that. The concert and ceremony were not there for the opening game, but was planned for this particular clash. Understandably so it was expected. This could very well set the 2023 ICC Men's World Cup alive. The concert, in the last hour, the official broadcaster announced that it was only for the stadium audience. With the stadium fast-filling, Shankar Mahadevan, Sukhwinder Singh, Sunidhi Chauhan and Arijit Singh went about their business in front of a reasonable crowd.

When it got closer to the toss, the atmosphere was buzzing. Something Pakistan Superfan Mohammad Bashir was keen to experience. He had received a lot of love in Hyderabad and was looking forward to the same. In this stadium on Saturday, he was representing a small section, possibly a handful of them, in the stands. Even if you put the stands under a microscope, it would have been hard to find a Pakistan flag in the crowd — there were two on the boundary that ICC volunteers waved based on how the match was going. The reason — they didn't get visas to travel.

As for the reception, unlike Hyderabad, it was predominantly blue. Pakistan captain Babar Azam was booed when he walked out to speak with Ravi Shastri at toss. There were sections of the crowd that booed even after the Pakistan national anthem was played. When the play began, the DJ at the venue took it further playing 'Jai Shree Ram' from Adipurush — a song about a Hindu religious god — with close to a lakh fans cheering on.

Indian fans make their presence felt against Pakistan on Saturday | AP

When Mohammed Siraj and Hardik Pandya broke partnerships, the crowd brought down the rood with their noise. However, it also meant that when they do well, the stadium goes to a pin drop silence. Not acknowledgement. Nor an applause. Just silence. As Babar and Rizwan strolled through after the first couple of wickets it seemed that the contest was happening in a rather empty ground. It was only when Siraj cleaned up Azam, that the crowd came alive. In a way, it summed up the nature of the partisan crowd at the venue. It only doubled down as Kuldeep Yadav took two wickets in the same over to reduce Pakistan to 166/5 after 33 overs. In the end, the Pakistan team collapsed and managed to put up 191 on the board.

Billed as the match that is going to set the tournament alive from day one, the crowd and India have made sure the atmosphere was electric, but only when things are going India's way. How the game goes, could likely have an impact in the coming games as well.

House of cards: Pakistan slump

At 155/2 after 29.3 overs, Pakistan were looking good for a score in excess of 300. But with Rohit Sharma marshalling his bowlers, they produced a stunning turnaround. A look at the collapse...

29.4: Azam — Siraj, who had gone for a few, used the cross seam and got it to ever so slightly deviate inward after pitching. Azam missed the line and lost the stumps.

32.2 Saud — The new batter missed a Kuldeep leggie and it was crashing into the stumps. Overturned on review.

32.6 Iftikhar — Not the greatest against spin, lost his stumps with the ball deviating off his gloves while trying to sweep. Summed up their collapse.

33.6 Rizwan — A Bumrah masterclass. A slower offcutter grips and beats Rizwan whose bat wasn't in the same postcode. Stumps gone.

35.2 Shadab — Just played down the wrong line and Bumrah's unerring accuracy cleans up the off peg.

39.6 Nawaz — Last of the recognised batters, Nazwaz tries to clear mid on. It's straight to Bumrah off Pandya.

40.1 Hasan — Amateur hour continues as another batter tries to clear the boundary but there is zero conviction and Jadeja gets it on the act.

42.5 Haris — Jadeja's stump to stump line does Haris in and it's all over one hour after Pakistan were looking very promising.

8/36

Pakistan lost their last eight wickets for just 36 runs in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Fan-tastic: Pak supporter enjoying World Cup ride

GOMESH S @ Ahmedabad

SPORT can be a lot of things. Passion, hobby, a connection to the roots, city, country, a political tool to put on a show of extravaganza. What sport is also a vehicle and a platform where people come together, forgetting their differences for the sheer love of the sport.

And it is the people, the fans and super fans, who leave the jingoism and nationalism behind to watch a good game, are the biggest stakeholders of the sport. They represent the best of the sport. In cricket, one such unavoidable name when it comes to super fans is — Mohammad Bashir.

Fondly called as Bashir Chacha or Chicago Chacha, Bashir, a Pakistan-born settled in Chicago, has travelled across the globe to cheer for the Pakistan cricket team for almost two decades. From 2007 till 2023, he has not missed a single men's ODI World Cup cheering for the team wherever they are, including the Hyderabad leg of the ongoing tournament. On Saturday, as the Babar Azam-led side faced India in front of a sea of blue at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Bashir will be the only Pakistani-born fan in the stands cheering for them. Bashir, who has an American passport, didn't have trouble getting a visa but that wasn't the case with other Pakistan fans who could not come for the World Cup.

Mohammad Bashir during the 2023 ODI World Cup | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

Bashir, who made it to the country, has experienced a lot of love from fellow fans in India so far. "Hyderabad gave me a lot of love. I have been in Ahmedabad for two days and here also people are showering me with love. We talk and click selfies. Here, I will be the only Pakistan supporter against more than 1 lakh India fans," said Bashir before the start of Saturday's match.

That he will be the only Pakistan fan did not change anything for Bashir, neither did the advice people gave him about travelling to Ahmedabad. "I was warned not to go to Ahmedabad as I am sporting a beard but believe me, people are giving me so much love here. They are taking selfies with me, and clicking pics with me. It will be a lot of fun. I will raise a slogan of 'Jeetega bhai jeetega', everybody will say 'India jeetega' but I will chant Pakistan jeetega. I will enjoy the outing," he said.

In Hyderabad, Bashir and Pakistan had a memorable week with him watching the game from the hospitality box and the team bagging four points. More than the wins, the way fans embraced Pakistan and cheered for them is something that will always stay with Bashir. "I could not differentiate whether I am in Hyderabad or Pakistan. The ground was 75 per cent in the Pakistan vs Sri Lanka match. 70 per cent of them were supporting Pakistan," he recalls.

Ask him about his favourite WC memory, Bashir says it was the 2011 semifinal between the two countries in Mohali when the then Indian captain MS Dhoni arranged tickets for him "The 2011 World Cup is my favourite. That was my first visit to India. Dhoni gave me everything I needed. That match where India beat Pak in the semifinal in Mohali, that is my favourite memory," he said.

India and Pakistan haven't played any bilateral cricket in over a decade due to the political friction bets the two countries and governments. Bashir requested that the governments should come together to make it happen again.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

English exam for Afghans

England seek back-to-back wins before a run of tricky games while Afghanistan aim to arrest a 14-match losing run in ODI World Cups. A look...

ROOT'S CONTROL

In a team filled with attractive batters, Joe Root's control at No 3 has already given the defending champions a shield. Scores of 77 (86) and 82 (68) show that he is capable of playing according to the situation as well as occupying the crease when the spinners are in play. Against Afghanistan, that could be handy.

ANOTHER RUN-SCORING FEAST ON THE CARDS?

Delhi has given batters all sorts of freedom in the ongoing World Cup with expressive strokeplay on the menu. South Africa, Sri Lanka, India and, to an extent, Afghanistan themselves have enjoyed the true nature of the pitch. England will like it if the surface is anything like the first two games.

NEW ROLE FOR RASHID?

Even as Rohit tore into Afghanistan the other night, it was puzzling to see Rashid Khan not demanding the ball. That he's a reluctant powerplay bowler means they are already short of one quality option when teams start attacking them. It will be interesting to see if their ace spinner will be given this responsibility if England get off to a quick start.

TODAY'S GAME: ENGLAND VS AFGHANISTAN, DELHI, 2.00 PM Live on Star Sports Network/Hotstar

Mbappe scores double to fire unbeaten France to Euro '24

AGENCIES @ Amsterdam

KYLIAN Mbappe fired France into next year's European Championships on Friday, scoring twice as his side kept their unbeaten qualifying record with a 2-1 win over a depleted Netherlands in Amsterdam.

The three points meant Didier Deschamps' men qualify for Euro 2024 with two games to spare, while 1988 champions Netherlands have to battle it out with Greece for second place in Group B.

There had been some concerns over Mbappe's form coming into the match, as he recovers from an ankle injury, but the Paris Saint-Germain star has a great record against the Oranje and took just seven minutes to strike.

Results (Friday): Group B: Netherlands 1-2 France; Republic of Ireland 0-2 Greece; Group F: Austria 2-3 Belgium; Estonia 0-2 Azerbaijan. Group J: Iceland 1-1 Luxembourg; Portugal 3-2 Slovakia.

A slick move down the right sliced opened the Dutch defence and Mbappe volleyed crisply in from a Jonathan Clauss cross to give Les Bleus the lead. France thumped their hosts 4-0 in the reverse fixture in March, with the Dutch missing several key players after a virus swept through the squad. The Dutch were again crippled by absences, with no fewer than 12 potential squad members injured or ill.

France's Kylian Mbappé (C) celebrates after scoring the second on Friday | AFP

Mbappe doubled the French advantage on 53 minutes with a sumptuous curled strike into the top corner that gave Bart Verbruggen no chance.

It was the PSG striker's 42nd international goal, overtaking French legend Michel Platini and putting him fourth in the all-time list.

The hosts thought they were back in the game a few minutes later but substitute Donyell Malen's effort was ruled offside.

EXPRESS READ

Shanker, Prisha win Fenesta Open titles

NEW DELHI: Manipur's Shanker Heisnam and Maharashtra's Prisha Shinde won titles in their respective categories at the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship. Shanker beat Thirumurugan V of Tamil Nadu 6-1, 6-2 to win the boy's singles U-16 title. Prisha won the girls' singles U-14 title, beating Anandita Upadhyay 6-1, 6-2.

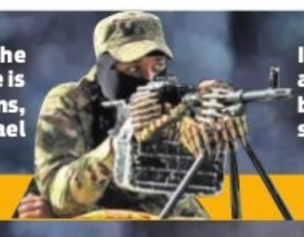
Arctic Open: Sindhu loses to Wang

VANTAA (FINLAND): Indian shuttler PV Sindhu's bid for a title came to an end in the Arctic Open, as she lost to fifth seed Zhi Yi Wang of China here on Saturday. Sindhu lost the opening game 12-21 before bouncing back in the second 21-11. However, the Chinese upped the ante in the final game, beating Sindhu 21-7.

Meeting held to review security for Nat'l Games

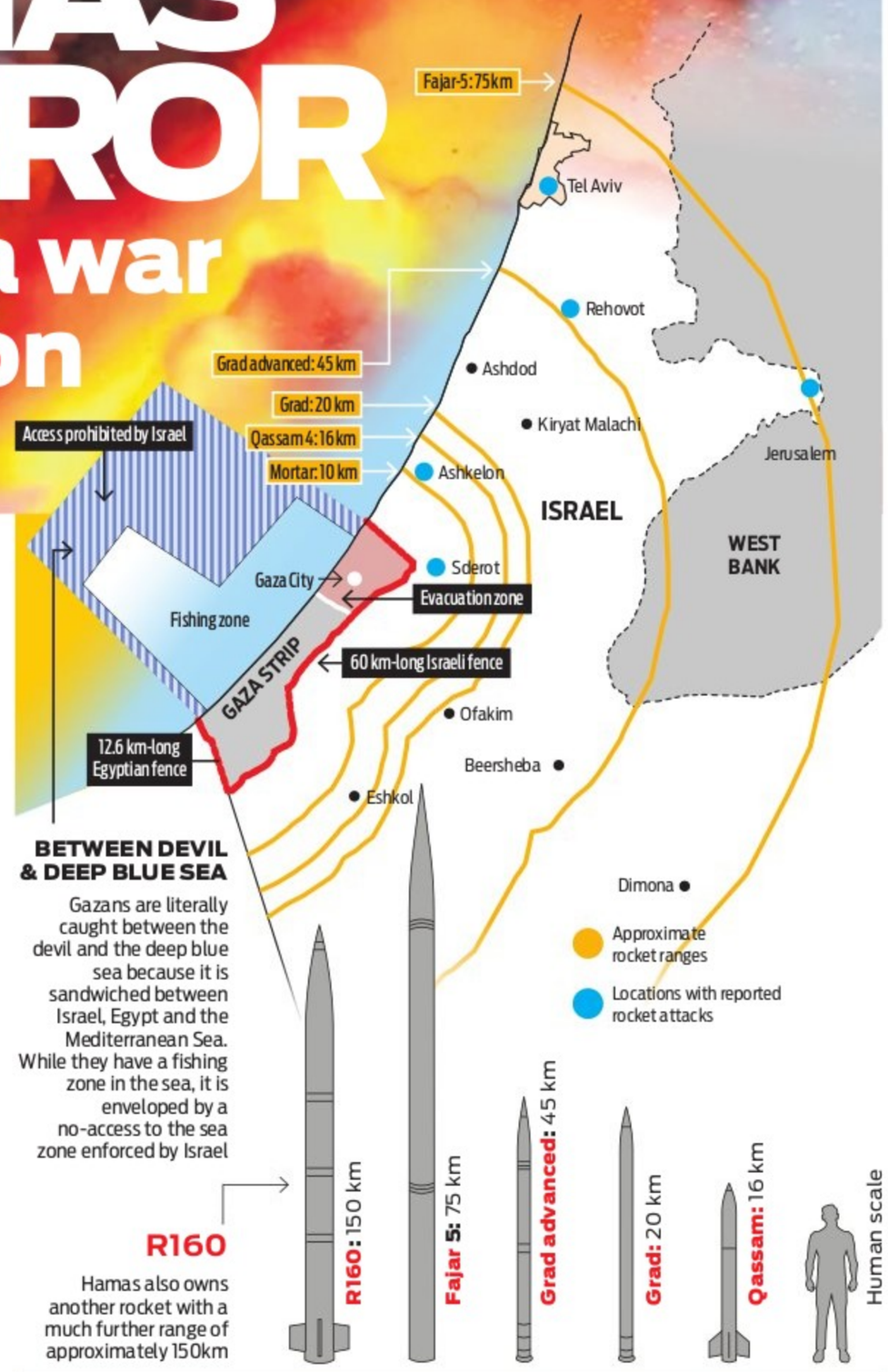
PANAJI: Goa Sports Minister Govind Gaude on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review security arrangements ahead of the National Games, slated to start in the state from October 26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Games at Nehru stadium at Fatorda. Gaude said the primary focus was to develop a comprehensive plan to safeguard the athletes, technical officers and spectators.

With Israel vowing to wipe Hamas off, the outfit's future seems grim. Its only hope is Israel inflicts casualties on Palestinians, which may turn the tide against Israel



If Israel's ground offensive goes sideways and casualties rise, war could spill over beyond Gaza into a regional conflict with some Arab nations entering war theatre

Deconstructing the HAMAS HORROR and Gaza war escalation



GENESIS OF THE CRISIS

What is at the root of the Israel-Palestine conflict?

The land we know as Israel-Palestine today was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire during the 1900s. The empire collapsed after World War 1 and Britain took control of Palestine. At the time, this land was inhabited by an Arab majority and Jewish minority along with other ethnic groups. Tensions between the two groups grew as Jews started strategically immigrating to Palestine

What was the Balfour Declaration?

In 1917, Britain's Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour wrote a letter to a prominent Jewish figurehead Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild expressing his support of establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This letter came to be known as the Balfour Declaration. This declaration was included in the British Mandate for Palestine and was endorsed by UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, in 1922

What happened during World War II?

The advent of World War II saw persecution of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Between 1920 and 1940, many Jews fled Europe and arrived in Palestine to seek refuge and establish their homeland. As the number of Jews immigrating grew, violence between Jews and Arabs also started increasing

What was UN's proposal?

In 1947, the UN devised a proposal for the state of Palestine to be split into two: a Jewish state called Israel and an Arab state named Palestine. The city of Jerusalem would become an international zone since Jewish, Christians and Arabs have religious significance attached to the place. The plan was accepted by Jews but was rejected by the Arabs. So, it was never implemented

When was Israel created?

In 1948, as sectarian violence grew between the two communities and tensions failed to resolve, Britain withdrew and Jews declared the creation of the state of Israel. However, a day after its creation, five Arab nations - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria - attacked the new country as they were totally against its creation.

What happened after war?

Israel emerged victorious in the war. It took control of most of the territory with the western half of Jerusalem coming under their rule as also much of the Palestine territory. This resulted in many of the Palestinians being expelled from their homes creating a huge refugee crisis. The territory of Gaza was controlled by Egypt while the West Bank was controlled by Jordan

What was the 1967 war?

In 1967, after fighting another war with the Arab states, Israel took control of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, as well as most of the Syrian Golan Heights, Gaza and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula. Most of the Palestinian refugees still live in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel claims the entire Jerusalem as its capital while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as their capital. Israel created settlements in West Bank and East Jerusalem for Jews, which are seen as illegal by international organisations

T K VINEETH @Kochi

GAZA-based regional militant outfit Hamas shot to international infamy after its brutal attack on Israel last week. The Sunni Islamist extremist outfit, proscribed in multiple countries, shocked the powerful Israeli military when it managed to breach the seemingly impregnable border security fence by land, air and sea, kill over a thousand Israelis, and maim many more. Hamas barbarism in the early morning of October 7 shattered the notion that Israel's security apparatus was top-notch and its border infiltration-proof. On the other hand, the stature of Hamas, so to speak, rose among the terror merchants with experts the world over speculating how they managed to pull it off in arguably the most security conscious nation. There are countless conspiracy theories, including some suggesting that Israel had prior knowledge but chose to ignore it, but none of them stands the test of scrutiny.

So, what happened on October 7? Clearly, there was intelligence failure on the part of Israel but the country's political leadership has refused to offer any immediate explanation. As for the military, it wouldn't talk now as its priority is to finish off Hamas once and for all. "First, we fight, then we investigate," is how Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the chief military spokesman, cryptically put it when asked about the security breach.

The evacuation

Israel's retaliatory strikes on Hamas targets have so far been from the air, though the military has already started small raids into the Gaza Strip. Israel ordered the evacuation of the one million-plus residents in the northern part of Gaza within 24 hours in what is considered a signal that it is all set to launch its ground assault.

Hamas sought to take insurance by abducting an estimated 150 people, including foreigners, from Israel and took them to Gaza ostensibly to use them as bargaining chips to ward off a ground attack and force Israel to release the outfit's operatives currently in jail. But Israel apparently has other ideas. It intends to scorch the earth in Gaza to ferret out the terrorists and rescue the hostages instead. Israel's stated policy of no negotiation, no compromise on hostages is under severe test. Whether or not it would soften its stance later because scores of innocent civilians, including citizens of other nations, have been abducted will depend on its ability to smoke out Hamas from its vast network of underground tunnels in Gaza.

Tactical deception

Hamas' stated objective is to establish an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine, a geographic area that includes Israel, by obliterating the state of Israel and removing non-Muslims. It has launched numerous attacks, including suicide missions, against Israel but has not been successful beyond making regional headlines. In the past two years, it had toned down both its actions and rhetoric against Israel and feigned to focus on governing the impoverished Gaza Strip, which it took control of in 2007 through violent means. It carefully created the smoke screen of turning comparatively passive and not plotting terror attacks.

Israel fell hook, line and sinker for the ruse. There were occasional small-scale attacks and a few rocket launches that were routinely foiled by Israel, giving the country the false confidence that it's very much under control. In recent months, Israel even allowed some 18,000 Palestinians to work in Israel in return for a relative phase of peace. On the surface, the prospects of employment and better pay in Israel seemed to work as no major attacks were launched from Gaza nor did Israeli intelligence agencies pick up any chatter on Hamas worth worrying about. However, as it turned out, Hamas had much bigger plans. It was just biding its time to prepare for the biggest onslaught in its history.

To avoid Israel's sophisticated intelligence radar, Hamas operatives went completely offline shunning mobile phones and other electronic devices while plotting the attack. They passed messages in-person through private and even public meetings clandestinely. Its operatives trained in full public view without drawing concerns. Israel's defence personnel too became complacent, roiled as the nation was for months in the harebrained idea of reducing its Supreme Court's powers. Hamas chose the day of attack to coincide with the end of the week-long Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which is celebrated from September 29 to October 6, to inflict maximum casualty.

What provoked Hamas?

Experts believe Hamas may have been piqued that the Palestine issue was getting sidelined by the global community, especially the Arab world which was getting cozier with Israel. Hamas was vehemently opposed to the Abraham Accords that Israel signed with the UAE, Morocco, Bahrain, and Sudan to normalise ties. The accords were signed during 2020-21 with the support of the Trump administration to counter common rivals such as Iran. The larger objective, of course, is to secure the release of all 5,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, get the 16-year-old blockade on Gaza lifted and prevent Israeli raids on Al Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. By doing so, Hamas wants to convey to all Palestinians that their interests are best protected under its umbrella.

Violent ideology

Hamas, the Arabic acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement) was founded by Ahmed Yassin in 1987 shortly after the first uprising against Israel. Yassin was a cleric associated with the Palestinian branch of Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas staunchly opposed the secular approach of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and projected itself as the entity that genuinely cared for the Palestinian cause. It unabashedly advocated violent means to fulfil the objectives and pitted itself against the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), which had a similar ideology. Hamas chose to differentiate itself from other politico-religious outfits and is today considered the biggest militant group in Palestine. Hamas first used suicide bombing in April 1993, five months before PLO leader Yasser Arafat and then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the historic Oslo Accords. The pact established limited self-government for parts of the West Bank and Gaza under a new entity called the Palestinian Authority. Hamas condemned the pact as well as the PLO and Israel's recognition of each other.

HAMAS CHARTER

- Hamas published its charter in August 1988, saying its main objective is to establish "an Islamic state throughout Palestine"
- The foundational document contains several anti-Semitic passages
- The charter rejects a two-state solution and explicitly states that the conflict can't be resolved "except through jihad"
- Article 6 of the charter says the "whole of the land is non-negotiable"
- In May 2017, Hamas unveiled a rewritten charter to say Hamas is anti-Zionist rather than anti-Jewish
- But it maintains that the State of Israel is illegal and illegitimate and reiterates the goal of an Islamist Palestinian state covering the entire Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

Early days

Since the late 1970s, activists connected with the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood established a network of charities, clinics and schools and became active in the Palestine territories of Gaza Strip and West Bank. In Gaza, they were active in many mosques while their activities in the West Bank were limited to universities. The Brotherhood's activities in these areas were generally nonviolent, but a number of small groups began to call for jihad, or holy war, against Israel. With the launch of Hamas, which was formed by members of the Muslim Brotherhood and religious factions of the PLO, sentiments against Israel grew stronger in Palestine.

In its 1988 charter, Hamas maintained that Palestine is an Islamic homeland that can never be surrendered to non-Muslims and that waging a holy war to wrest control of Palestine from Israel is a religious duty for Palestinian Muslims. This position brought it into conflict with the PLO, which in 1988 recognised Israel's right to exist. Hamas somewhat moderated its stand later but still refused to recognise Israel.

Gaza capture

In 2006, Hamas contested elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, the legislative body of the Palestinian Authority, winning 74 of 132 seats, beating Fatah that controlled the Palestine Authority at the time. This led to a power struggle between Hamas and the rival Fatah party founded by Yasser Arafat.

Hamas' takeover of Gaza was violent as its fighters took control of the Gaza Strip and removed Fatah officials. The fight between the two groups went on from June 10 to 15, 2007 and resulted in the dissolution of the unity government. It also caused the division of the Palestinian territories into two—West Bank governed by the Palestinian National Authority and Gaza governed by Hamas. At least 118 people were reportedly killed during the week-long fight.

The leaders

Hamas' founder Yassin was a quadriplegic who was also nearly blind. His mobility was restricted to a wheelchair ever since he suffered a sporting accident when he was 12 years old. Yassin was eliminated by Israel in 2004 when a helicopter gunship fired a missile at him as he was being wheeled from Fajr prayer in Gaza City. The attackwas internationally condemned. Over 2 lakh Palestinians attended his funeral procession in Gaza.

One of the early leaders of Hamas' military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, was Salah Shehade. He quickly rose to become a very influential leader and was arrested twice by Israeli authorities, in 1984 and 1988. After the death of Hamas military leader and bomb expert Yahya Ayash in 1996, Shehade became a top leader in the group, along with Mohammed Deif and Adnan al-Ghoul. Shehade was taken out by an Israeli airstrike on his house on July 22, 2002, which also killed his wife and daughter. Hamas' current leaders include Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and Ismail Haniyeh. The first two are believed to be holed up in one of the tunnels in Gaza, leaving the residents to face the fury of Israel's attack. Haniyeh is in exile and splits his time between Doha and Cairo.

Of these, Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh is the Islamist group's best known leader, having served briefly as Palestinian prime minister following the group's upset 2006 parliamentary election victory. Considered a pragmatist, Haniyeh maintains good relations with the heads of various Palestinian factions, including rival ones.

As for the elusive 'chief of staff' Mohammed Deif, he has survived at least six attempts to liquidate him. He has also been on the US list of international terrorists since 2015. It was Deif's audio message that announced the start of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. Deif, whose real name is Mohammed Diab al-Masri, was born in 1965. He was appointed head of Hamas's military wing in 2002 after the death of Salah Shehade in a raid. Sinwar, 61, is a former commander of the Hamas military wing. Sinwar spent 23 years in Israeli jails before his release in 2011 in a prisoner exchange involving French-Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit who was held captive by Hamas. Sinwar is also on the US list of wanted "international terrorists".

Who funds them

Hamas is believed to get funding from Iran. Besides, rockets and other explosives from Iran are routed via Sudan and Egypt. They enter Gaza through tunnels beneath the Sinai Peninsula. Iran first reached out to Hamas in 1992 when Israel deported about 400 of them to Lebanon. Lebanon is where Hamas got military technology and training to build bombs for suicide attacks.